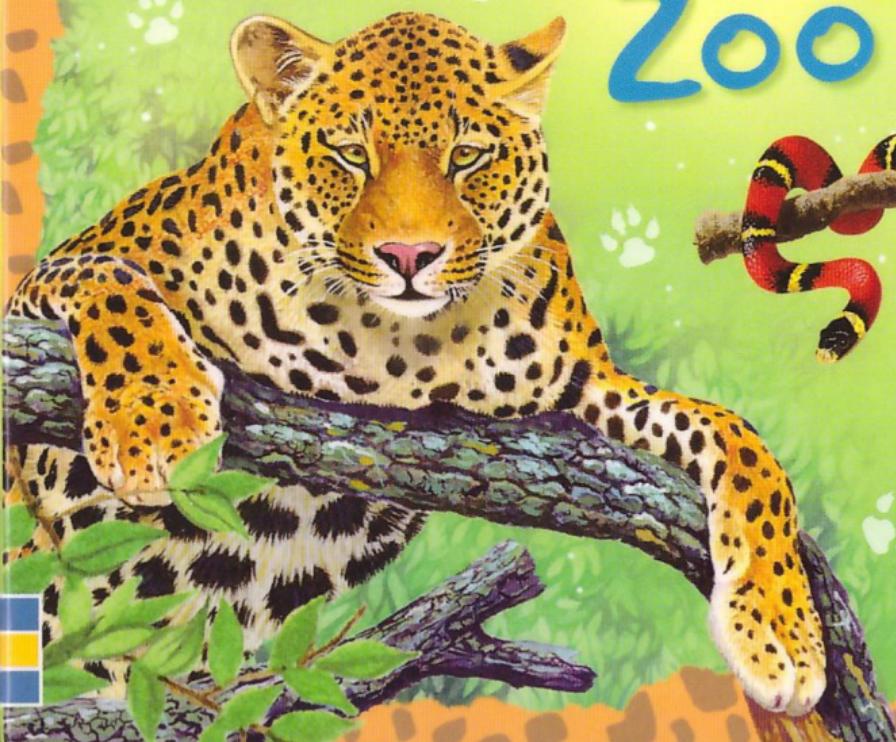




USBORNE  
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CARDS

# 100 Animals to Spot at the Zoo





Equipped with these fact-filled cards,  
a trip to the zoo or wildlife park  
will be better than ever.

Polar bear

15

Beneath their thick, white fur, polar bears have black skin.

Scientific name *Ursus maritimus*  
Family Ursidae (bears)  
Length ♂ 2.3m (7ft) ♀ 1.9m (6ft)  
Diet Seals, walruses, birds, fish, carrion  
Where found Arctic  
Survival Vulnerable

This is the largest type of bear, although Kodiak bears, a type of brown bear (11), may grow as big, or sometimes bigger. Polar bears' white fur helps them to hide in the snow as they hunt for seals, their main prey. They can smell a seal from 8m (26ft) away, even if it's under a layer of snow. Polar bears spend most of their lives on sea ice, and are superb swimmers.

Detailed illustrations,  
vital statistics and extra  
information to help  
identify each creature

African elephant

36

Large ears help African elephants to lose heat.  
Both males and females have tusks.

Scientific name *Loxodonta africana* (Savanna)  
Family Elephantidae (elephants)  
Shoulder height ♂ 3.3m (10ft) ♀ 2.7m (9ft)  
Diet Grass, leaves, bark, roots, fruit  
Where found Central and Southern Africa  
Survival Vulnerable

African elephants are the largest of all land animals, and adult males can weigh up to 6 tonnes (6.6 tons). An elephant's trunk has many uses: as a nose, as an extra hand, to drink water, to smell, to touch, to play with, and swimming. There are two species of African elephant: savanna elephants live on open grassland, while forest elephants (including a pygmy type) live in the jungle.

Discover more about how  
animals live, and find  
out facts to amaze your  
friends and family.

CE

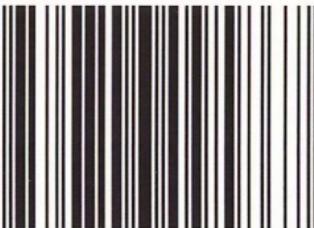


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# How to use these cards

These cards will help you discover more about animals you may see in zoos and wildlife parks.

Male and female animals sometimes look different. Sex symbols show which is which:

♂ Male

♀ Female

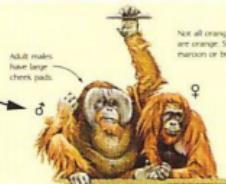
Closely related animals with similar features are grouped into "families".

What the creature eats

The places where it lives

The animal's most common name

Orang-utan



Scientific name: *Pongo pygmaeus* and *Pongo abelii*  
Family: Hominidae (great apes)  
Length: ♂ 1m (3ft) ♀ 0.8m (2.5ft)  
Diet: Fruit, plants, insects  
Where found: Borneo (*Pongo pygmaeus*)  
Sumatra (*Pongo abelii*)  
Survival: Critically endangered

"Orang-utan" is Malay for "person of the forest". Of all the great apes, they're most at home in trees. Orangs are heavy, and have to swing back and forth several times to move from tree to tree. Orang-utans are endangered because the forests they live in are being destroyed to plant palm trees, for their oil.

The main text gives more information about the animal and how it lives.

The numbers help to keep "families" of animals together.

Descriptive captions help you identify the animal.

Every animal type, or species, has a Latin or Greek name, used by experts all over the world.

Size (see back of card for more details). If males and females are different sizes, this is shown.

How well the animal is surviving in the wild (more details on **Animal survival** card)

## Usborne Quicklinks

For links to websites where you can find out more about animals, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com) and enter the keywords "100 zoo".

# Measuring animals

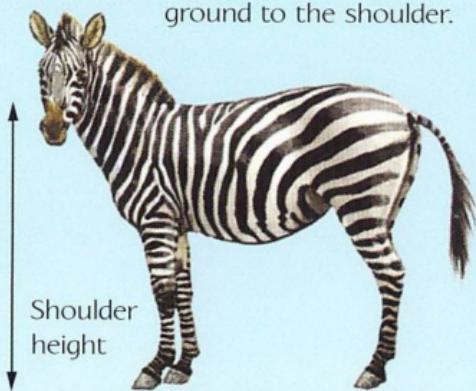
On most of the cards, the measurements given for the animals are averages. The pictures below show how different animals are measured:

Length



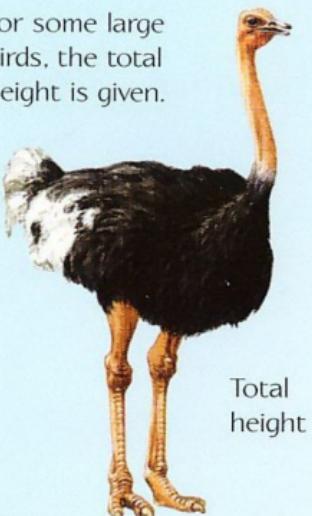
The length of most land mammals is measured without the tail.

Most mammals with hoofs are measured from the ground to the shoulder.



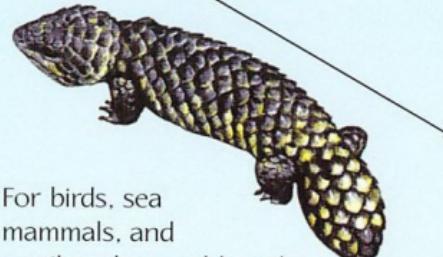
Shoulder height

For some large birds, the total height is given.



Total height

Total length



For birds, sea mammals, and reptiles, the total length is given, including the tail.

# Animal words

**Amphibians** A group of soft-skinned animals that live both on land and in water, such as frogs and salamanders

**Big cats** A group of large cat species, such as lions. Most big cats roar rather than purr; have round, not slit, pupils in their eyes; and lie down to feed, instead of crouching.

**Breeding season** A time of year when animals find and choose a mate, and raise their young

**Camouflage** A colouring, pattern or body shape that makes an animal difficult to see against its surroundings

**Carrion** Dead and decaying bodies

**Colony** A number of animals of the same type living together

**Crustaceans** Animals with a jointed body and limbs, a hard outer skeleton and two pairs of feelers. For example, lobsters.

**Hibernate** To sleep or rest through the winter

**Mammals** A group of animals that are mostly hairy and feed their young with milk. For example, gorillas and giraffes.

**Marsupials** A group of mammals, such as wallabies, that carry and feed their young in a pouch on their body.

**Migrate** To travel to different places, at certain times of year, to live and feed, or breed

**New World** North, Central and South America

**Old World** Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia

**Predator** An animal that hunts and eats other animals

**Prey** An animal that is hunted by a predator

**Rainforest** Forests in hot, wet parts of the world

**Rodents** A group of mammals with front teeth suited to gnawing. For example, rats.

# Animal survival

Many animals are in danger of extinction (dying out) because people are destroying the areas where they live. On the cards, the **Survival** entry tells you the level of risk each animal faces in the wild.

## Levels of risk

**Extinct in the wild** These animals have died out in the wild, and are now only found in zoos and wildlife reserves.

**Critically endangered** Extremely high risk of extinction

**Endangered** Very high risk of extinction

**Vulnerable** High risk of extinction

**Lower risk** These animals are not in immediate danger of extinction. Some animals in this group are in no real trouble, but others may soon become vulnerable.

Zoos and wildlife parks are often involved in breeding endangered animals so that, if they die out in the wild, it may be possible to stop them from becoming totally extinct. In some cases, zoos can help return animals to the wild, rebuilding lost populations from scratch.

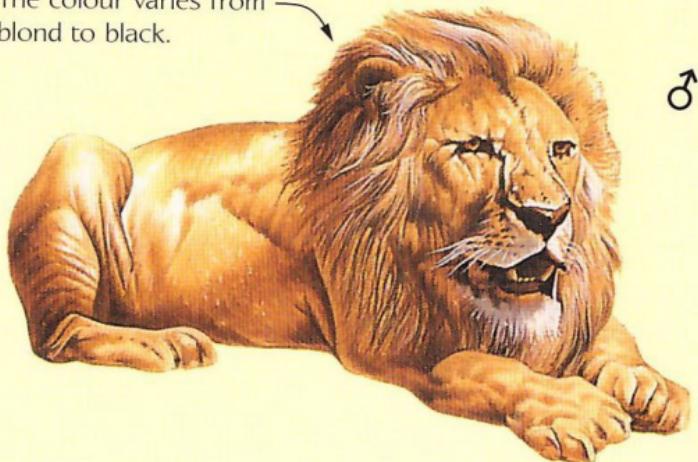


Tigers are endangered mainly because people cut down their forest homes to sell the wood.

# Lion

Only males have a mane.

The colour varies from  
blond to black.



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Panthera leo</i>
<b>Family</b>	Felidae (cats)
<b>Length</b>	♂ 2.1m (7ft) ♀ 1.75m (5½ft)
<b>Diet</b>	Large hoofed mammals
<b>Where found</b>	Africa, India (Asiatic lion)
<b>Survival</b>	African: vulnerable Asiatic: critically endangered

Unlike other big cats, lions live in groups, called prides. The females, called lionesses, are smaller and lighter than the males, and do most of the hunting. The males are stronger, and protect the pride. They are Africa's most powerful predators, earning them the title "king of the beasts". A male lion is the only cat with a mane, which makes it look even bigger than it already is.

# Tiger

2



A tiger's stripy coat helps to camouflage it as it waits for prey in the long grass.

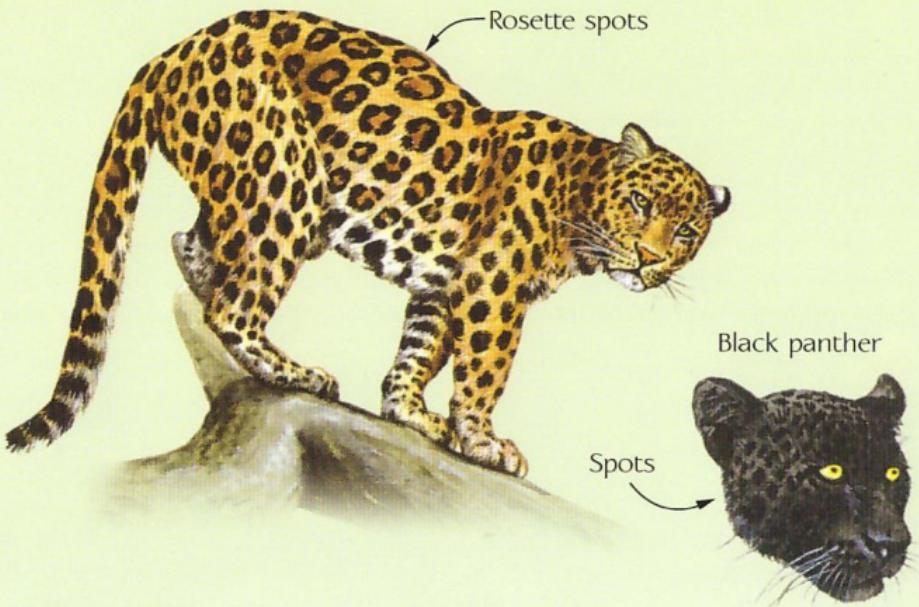


White tiger

Scientific name	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	♂ 2.9m (9½ft) ♀ 2.5m (8¼ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, bears
Where found	Asia
Survival	Bengal: endangered Siberian: critically endangered

The biggest and most powerful of all cats, tigers hunt by ambushing their prey, knocking them off balance, then biting their necks. They are strong swimmers and will pursue animals into water. Bengal tigers live in India. A white tiger is a pale kind of Bengal tiger. In zoos, you may see Siberian tigers, the largest type of all.

# Leopard

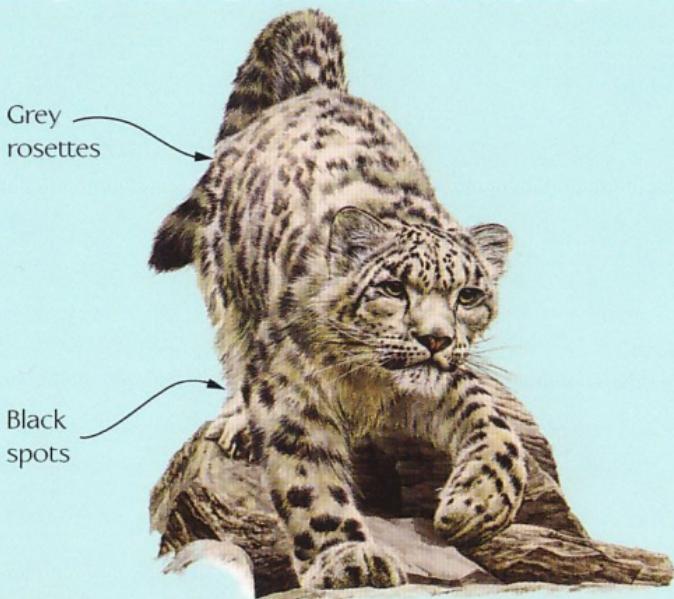


Scientific name	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	♂ 1.5m (5ft) ♀ 1m (3½ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, monkeys, storks
Where found	Africa, Middle East, Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Leopards live in many landscapes, including grasslands, mountains and forests. The brown rosettes on their coats provide good, all-round camouflage. Leopards' powerful legs let them easily jump up into trees. They are usually silent, but males sometimes make a coughing noise. Black panthers are a dark brown kind of leopard.

# Snow leopard

4

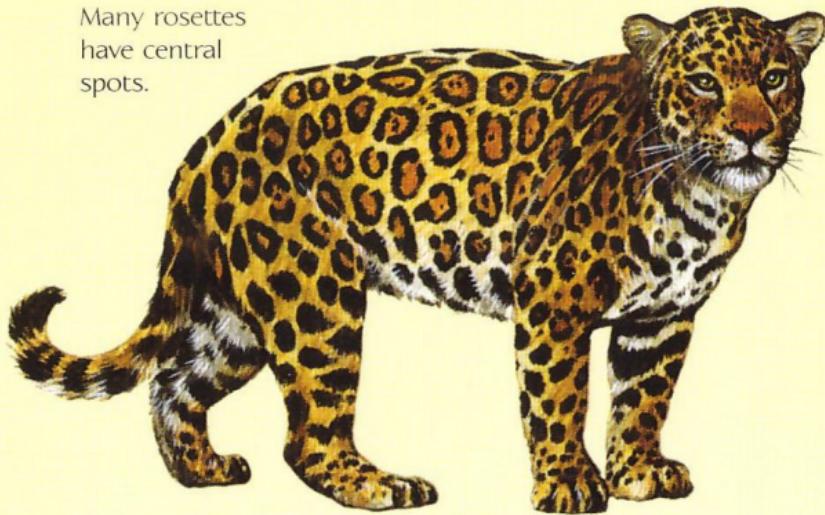


Scientific name	<i>Panthera uncia</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	♂ 1.2m (4ft) ♀ 0.9m (3ft)
Diet	Wild sheep, deer, boar, rodents
Where found	Central Asia
Survival	Endangered

Also known as an ounce, a snow leopard is well-suited to the cold, mountainous areas where it lives. Its pale, spotted fur camouflages it against the rocky slopes, and its big, furry paws support it on soft snow. This cat's long, strong back legs let it pounce up to 9m (30ft) onto its prey. Thick hair keeps it warm, especially its long, shaggy tail, which it curls around itself at night.

# Jaguar

Many rosettes  
have central  
spots.

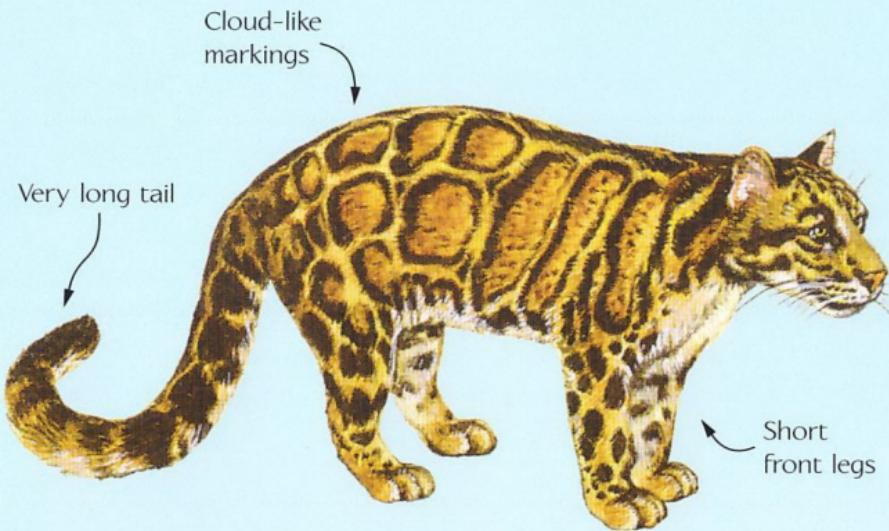


Scientific name	<i>Panthera onca</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	♂ 1.5m (5ft) ♀ 1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Deer, tapirs, peccaries, rodents, fish
Where found	Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

While lions are the biggest cats in Africa, and tigers in India, the top cats of Central and South America are jaguars. They look a little like leopards (3), but are more powerfully built. Like tigers, jaguars swim well, and hunt in thick forests and swampland. As with leopards, there is also a kind of black "panther" jaguar.

# Clouded leopard

6

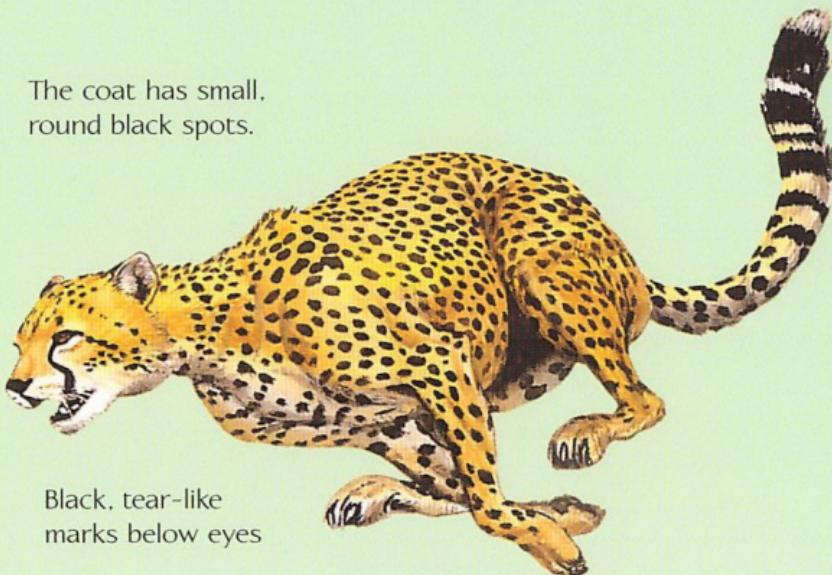


Scientific name	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	0.85m (2½ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, monkeys, birds
Where found	Central and Southeast Asia
Survival	Vulnerable

The smallest "big cats", clouded leopards are mysterious and secretive, only coming out at night. They are superb climbers, able to hang upside down from branches by their hind feet. Their tail is the longest of any cat's, helping them to balance as they leap from tree to tree, hunting monkeys and birds.

# Cheetah

The coat has small, round black spots.



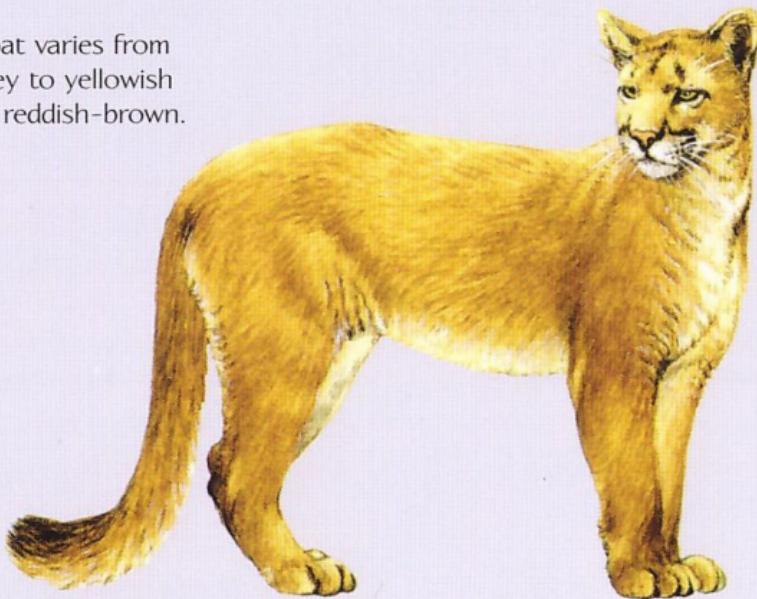
Black, tear-like  
marks below eyes

Scientific name	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	♂ 1.2m (4ft) ♀ 1m (3½ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, birds, rabbits
Where found	Africa, Middle East
Survival	Endangered

The world's fastest land animals, cheetahs can reach speeds of up to 110kph (70mph). Their claws cannot be fully pulled in, and grip the ground like running spikes. Cheetahs have distinctive black, tear-like marks running from the corner of their eyes down to the sides of their mouths. Their cubs have a silver mane along their backs.

# Puma

Coat varies from grey to yellowish or reddish-brown.



Scientific name	<i>Felis concolor</i>
Family	Felidae (cats)
Length	1.5m (5ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, rabbits, rodents
Where found	North, Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

This cat has over 40 common names, including cougar, mountain lion, catamount and deer tiger. Its scientific name means “cat of one colour”, because of the single colour of its coat. Pumas can leap, from a standstill, 2.5m (8ft) up into a tree: higher than any other cat. Pumas can't roar, but they do purr and scream. Their cubs have dark brown spots, and rings on their tails.

# Grey wolf



Fur is thick and usually grey or light brown. A few wolves are totally black or white.

Scientific name	<i>Canis lupus</i>
Family	Canidae (dogs)
Length	1.3m (4½ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, carrion, rodents
Where found	North America, Europe, Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Wolves are the largest of wild dogs, and the animals from which every type of domestic dog was bred. They live in groups called packs. Wolves hunt together, chasing a larger animal over a long distance, until it collapses from exhaustion. Wolf packs howl to let rival packs know not to come too close. Each wolf knows its place in the pack, and will keep its ears flatter and its tail lower than those of a superior wolf.



Long legs for  
chasing prey,  
such as rabbits  
or wallabies (64)

Scientific name	<i>Canis dingo</i>
Family	Canidae (dogs)
Length	♂ 0.9m (3ft) ♀ 0.8m (2½ft)
Diet	Rabbits, rats, small marsupials, birds
Where found	Australasia, Southeast Asia
Survival	Vulnerable

These wild dogs are thought to have been first brought to Australia by Asian sailors about 5,000 years ago. They have short, soft, sandy to reddish-brown fur with white patches. Dingoes are very adaptable, and live in many different landscapes, from lush forests to bone-dry deserts. They yelp and howl, but rarely bark.

# African wild dog

11



Scientific name	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
Family	Canidae (dogs)
Length	1m (3½ft)
Diet	Hoofed mammals, hares, rodents
Where found	Africa
Survival	Endangered

Every African wild dog has a short coat with a unique pattern of black, sandy and white patches. The dogs live in packs of up to 30, and are very friendly with one another. At midday, they "greet" each other, squeaking, running around and rubbing faces. They work closely together, roaming over vast areas to hunt large prey such as gazelles. Their call is a strange, whistling sound.

# Fennec fox

12



Cream-coloured coat

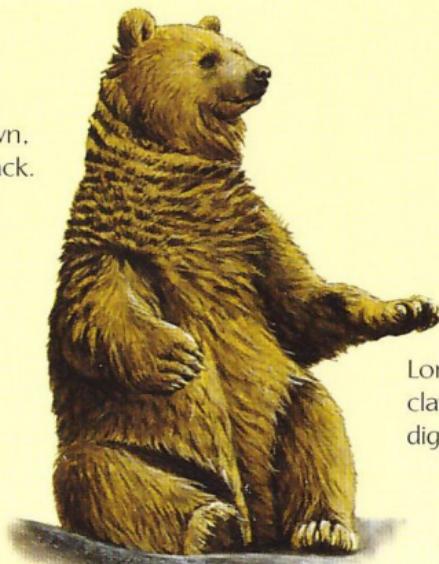
Huge ears

Scientific name	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>
Family	Canidae (dogs)
Length	33cm (13in)
Diet	Rodents, lizards, insects, fruit, leaves
Where found	North Africa, Middle East
Survival	Lower risk

This desert-dwelling fox is the smallest member of the dog family. Its enormous ears give it a sharp sense of hearing, and help it to lose heat. During the day, they rest in a burrow, venturing out to hunt in the cool of the night. Fennec foxes live in small family groups of up to a dozen, but search for food alone.

# Brown bear

The furry coat is brown, blond or black.



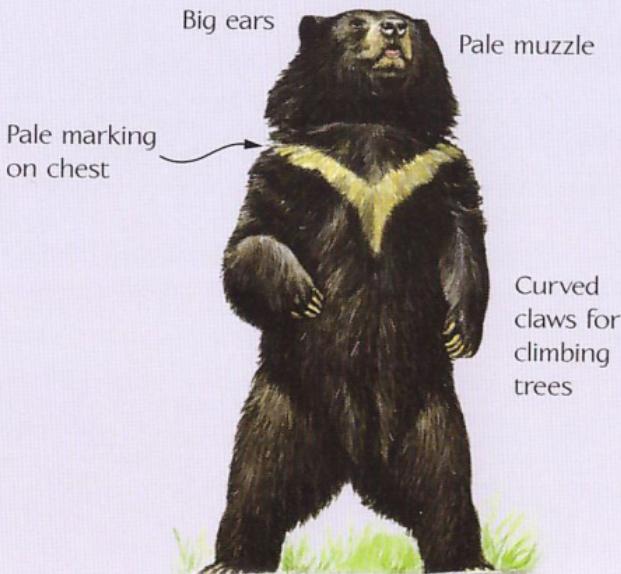
Long, straight claws for digging

Scientific name	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
Family	Ursidae (bears)
Length	2.2m (7½ft)
Diet	Grass, roots, berries, fish, mammals
Where found	North America, Europe, Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Brown bears live in forests, bushy mountain areas, and deserts. They eat meat, especially fish, but feed mainly on insects, nuts and berries. In winter, when food is scarce, they hibernate in caves or dug-out dens. These bears have a big shoulder hump formed by the powerful muscles they use for digging. A grizzly bear is a type of North American brown bear with grey-flecked fur.

# Asian black bear

14

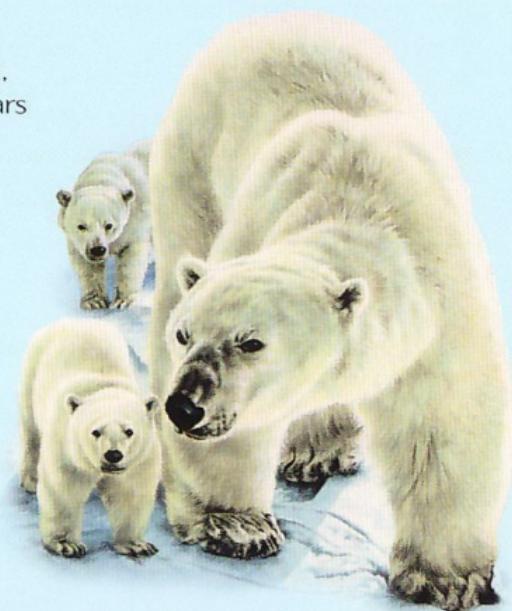


Scientific name	<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>
Family	Ursidae (bears)
Length	1.6m (5½ft)
Diet	Nuts, berries, fruits, roots, carrion
Where found	Asia
Survival	Vulnerable

Unlike the larger brown bears (13), black bears can climb trees, and only live in forests. They build “nests” out of branches to sit on while they’re looking for fruit and nuts. Asian black bears are sometimes called moon bears, because their pale chest-markings look a bit like a crescent moon. They mainly sleep during the day, coming out at night to look for food.

# Polar bear

Beneath their thick, white fur, polar bears have black skin.

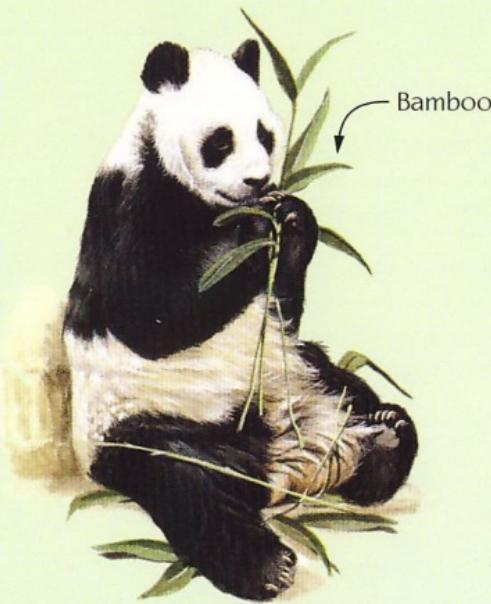


Scientific name	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>
Family	Ursidae (bears)
Length	♂ 2.3m (7½ft) ♀ 1.9m (6¼ft)
Diet	Seals, walruses, birds, fish, carrion
Where found	Arctic
Survival	Vulnerable

This is the largest type of bear, although Kodiak bears, a type of brown bear (13) from Alaska, may grow as big, or sometimes bigger. Polar bears' white fur helps them to hide in the snow as they hunt for seals, their main prey. They can smell a seal from 1km ( $\frac{2}{3}$  mile) away, even if it's under a layer of snow. Polar bears spend most of their lives on sea ice, and are superb swimmers.

# Giant panda

16



Scientific name	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i>
Family	Ursidae (bears)
Length	1.75m (5½ft)
Diet	Bamboo, other plants, fish, rodents
Where found	Central China
Survival	Endangered

These very rare black and white bears are only found in a few parts of China. Giant pandas mainly eat bamboo, which isn't very nourishing, so they spend most of their time feeding to get enough energy to survive. They have five claws on each paw, and a special pad on their wrist which serves as an extra "thumb", for gripping bamboo.

# Red panda

17



Chestnut  
brown fur

Scientific name	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>
Family	Procyonidae (raccoons)
Length	55cm (21¾in)
Diet	Bamboo, berries, flowers, eggs
Where found	China, Himalayas
Survival	Endangered

Red pandas are excellent climbers, and spend much of their time in trees, feeding on bamboo. They are mostly silent, but do make noises, including a strange “quack-snort” sound. Red pandas were once thought to be closely related to giant pandas (16) because they both have an extra “thumb” for gripping bamboo.

# Ringtailed coati

18



Banded tail, used  
for balancing

Scientific name	<i>Nasua nasua</i>
Family	Procyonidae (raccoons)
Length	50cm (19½in)
Diet	Fruit, insects, spiders, lizards, eggs
Where found	Mexico, Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

Coatis have long, sensitive snouts with which they snuffle for food on the ground. They are also excellent climbers, and can swivel their ankles around so their paws point upwards as they climb headfirst down tree trunks. In the wild, female coatis live together in groups. Each group is joined by a single male in the breeding season. For the rest of the year, male coatis live alone.

# Black-footed ferret

19



Scientific name	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>
Family	Mustelidae (weasels)
Length	♂ 38cm (15in) ♀ 34cm (13in)
Diet	Prairie dogs, other rodents
Where found	North America
Survival	Critically endangered

In the wild, black-footed ferrets feed on tunnelling rodents called prairie dogs, and live in their old burrows. Some farmers see prairie dogs as pests, and in the past many were poisoned. This led to a food shortage for black-footed ferrets, and they nearly became extinct. Now, thanks to ferrets bred in zoos being released into the wild, their numbers are starting to grow again.

# Dwarf mongoose

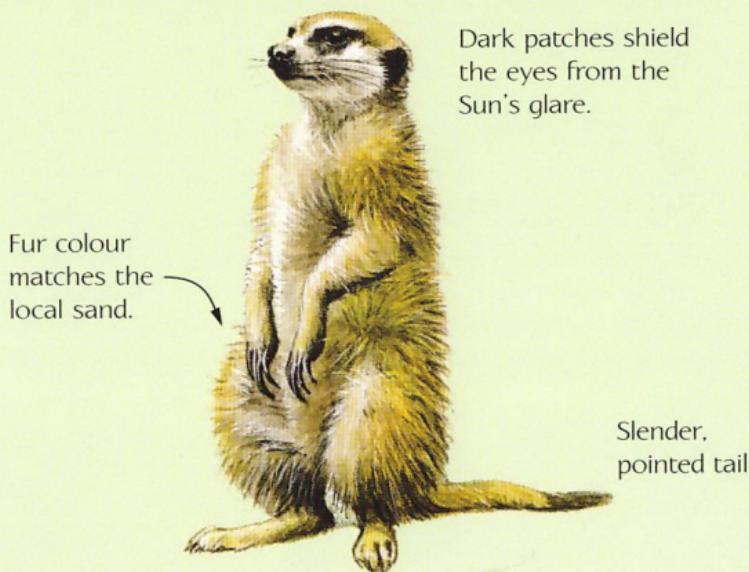
20



The fur colour varies from orangey to dark brown, and is often speckled with grey.

Scientific name	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Family	Herpestidae (mongooses)
Length	24cm (9½in)
Diet	Insects, small lizards, fruit
Where found	Africa
Survival	Lower risk

These slender little creatures live in packs, often in burrows near termite mounds, their main source of food. While the mongooses are feeding, a few stand on the termite mound to look out for dangerous birds of prey. Some dwarf mongooses in Kenya team up with hornbills (relatives of 95). These birds act as flying sentries, warning of danger. In return, the hornbills feast on grasshoppers stirred up by the mongooses.



Scientific name	<i>Suricata suricata</i>
Family	Herpestidae (mongooses)
Length	29cm (11½in)
Diet	Insects, lizards, scorpions, eggs
Where found	Southwest Africa (Kalahari)
Survival	Lower risk

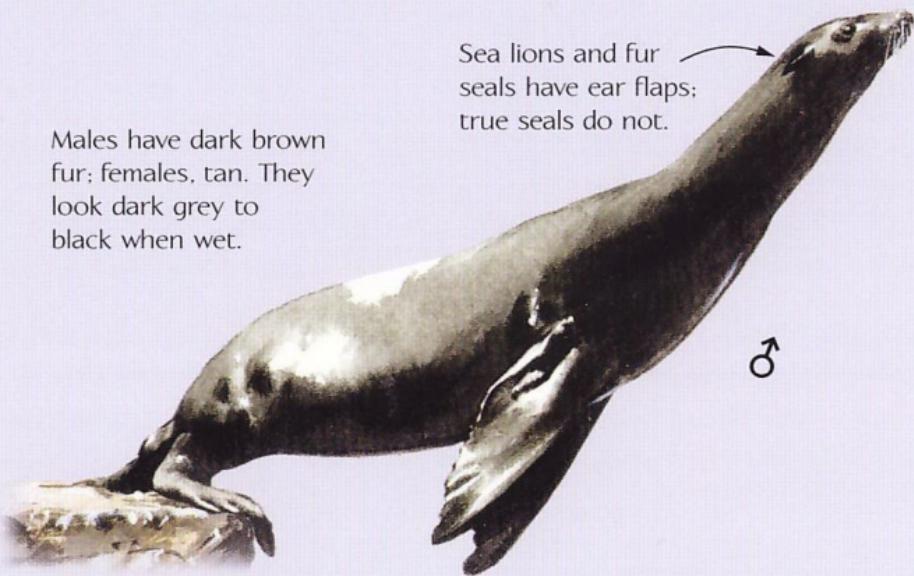
Meerkats are a type of mongoose that live in "gangs" of up to 40 members, in Africa's Kalahari Desert. They often stand on tiptoe outside the entrances to their burrows, watching for danger. Meerkats have sharp long-distance vision, and can even spot a bird of prey in front of the Sun. To judge short distances accurately, they have to bob their heads up and down.

# California sea lion

22

Males have dark brown fur; females, tan. They look dark grey to black when wet.

Sea lions and fur seals have ear flaps;  
true seals do not.

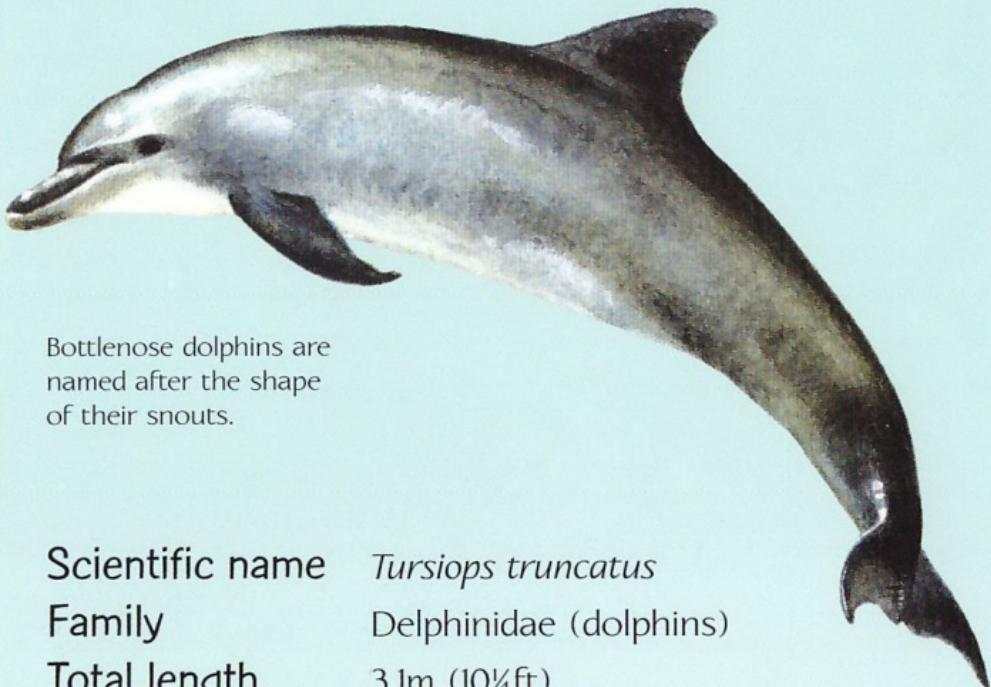


Scientific name	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>
Family	Otariidae (eared seals)
Length	♂ 2.25m (7½ft) ♀ 1.75m (5¾ft)
Diet	Squid, fish
Where found	Western USA and Mexico
Survival	Lower risk

Sea lions are highly acrobatic, and are also able to turn their back flippers forward and walk on land. In zoos and marine parks, they are often trained to perform tricks such as balancing a ball on their nose. Unlike seals, sea lions swim using their front flippers. California sea lions are the fastest of all seals and sea lions, and can swim at up to 40kph (25mph).

# Bottlenose dolphin

23



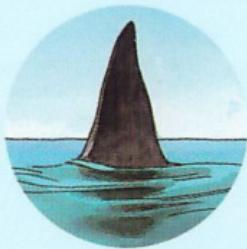
Bottlenose dolphins are named after the shape of their snouts.

Scientific name	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Family	Delphinidae (dolphins)
Total length	3.1m (10½ft)
Diet	Fish
Where found	Cool to warm seas worldwide
Survival	Lower risk

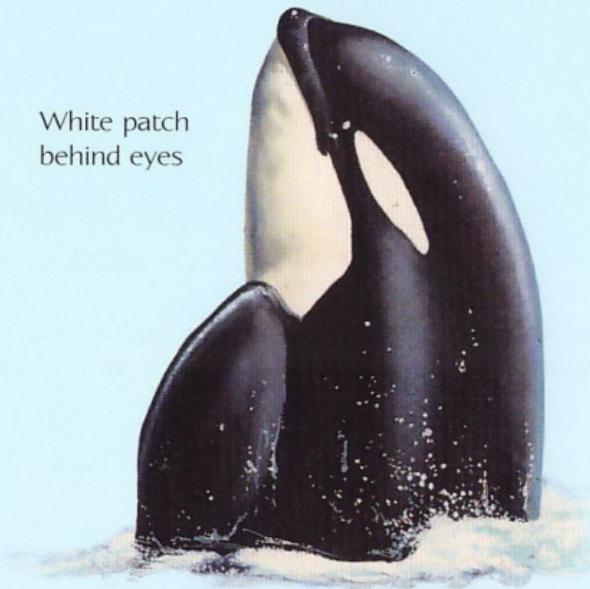
Dolphins are highly intelligent and are hard to keep in zoos and marine parks, because they are easily bored. They communicate with a complex range of whistles and squeaks, and even seem to call one another by name. Dolphins also use sound to "see" under water. They make clicking sounds, and find out where objects are by sensing the echoes that bounce off them.

# Killer whale

The black dorsal fin can be up to 2m (6½ft) tall.



White patch  
behind eyes



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
<b>Family</b>	Delphinidae (dolphins)
<b>Total length</b>	♂ 6.9m (22½ft) ♀ 6m (19¾ft)
<b>Diet</b>	Seals, sea lions, fish
<b>Where found</b>	Cool and cold oceans worldwide
<b>Survival</b>	Lower risk

Also known as orcas, killer whales are actually dolphins. They are powerful predators and hunt in family groups called pods. Members of a pod cleverly work together to round up a shoal of fish into a whirling "bait-ball", then take turns to snap them up. Killer whales often raise the front of their body up out of the water to look around. This is called "spy-hopping".

# Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees make many different facial expressions to show their feelings.



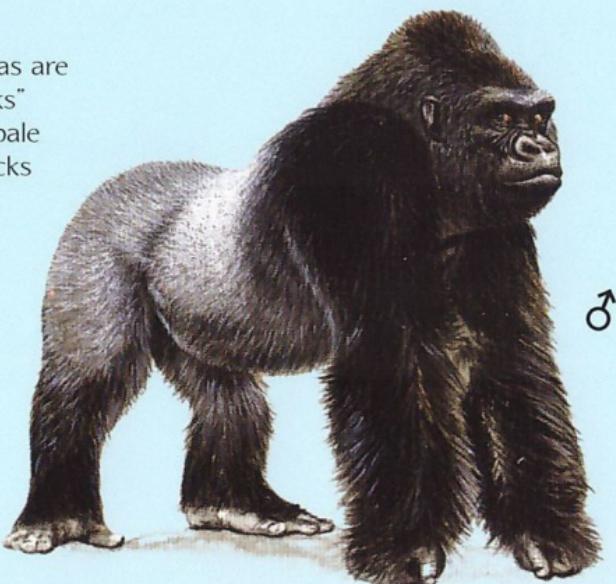
Scientific name	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>
Family	Hominidae (great apes)
Length	♂ 0.85m (2½ft) ♀ 0.78m (2½ft)
Diet	Fruit, plants, insects, small mammals
Where found	Western and Central Africa
Survival	Endangered

Like all apes, chimpanzees have no tail, and their arms are longer than their legs. This helps them both to climb trees, and to walk on their knuckles. Chimps spend a lot of time in trees, sleeping at night in nests made of branches. They are extremely intelligent and live in large communities with up to 100 members. Chimps use sticks and stones as tools, even sharpening branches into simple spears to catch small prey hiding in tree-holes.

# Western gorilla

26

Adult male gorillas are called "silverbacks" because of the pale hair on their backs and thighs.



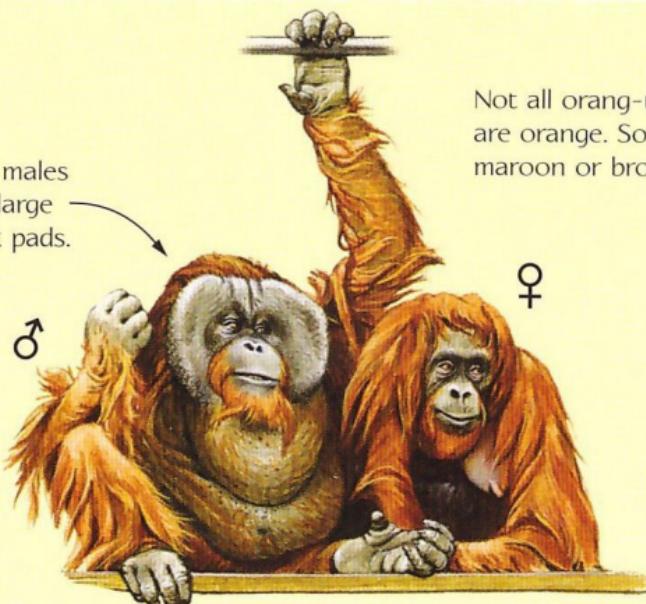
Scientific name	<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>
Family	Hominidae (great apes)
Length	♂ 1.7m (5½ft) ♀ 1.4m (4½ft)
Diet	Plants, fruit, insects
Where found	Western Central Africa
Survival	Critically endangered

The largest apes, gorillas have short legs, long, muscular arms, a wide chest and a big head. They live in groups (called "troops") in forests, and spend most of their time on the ground, eating fruit and plants. Gorillas are shy animals, and although they're very strong, they are rarely violent. Like chimpanzees (25), they walk on their front knuckles.

# Orang-utan

27

Adult males  
have large  
cheek pads.



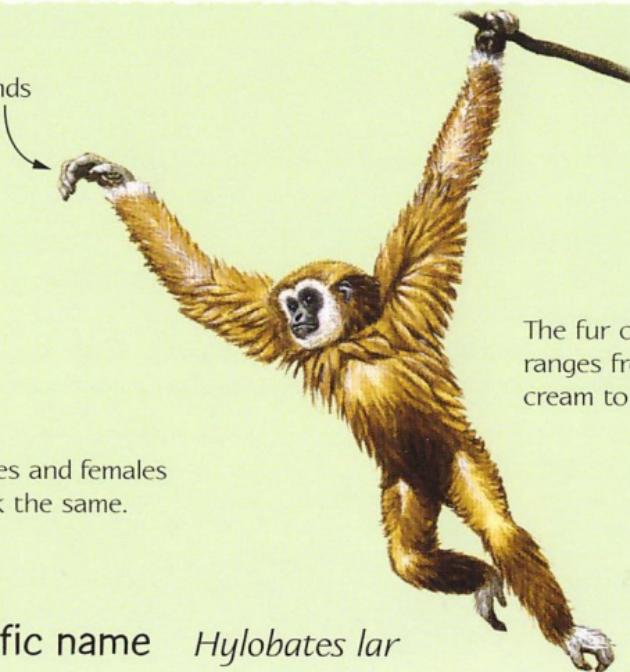
Not all orang-utans  
are orange. Some are  
maroon or brown.

Scientific names	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i> and <i>Pongo abelii</i>
Family	Hominidae (great apes)
Length	♂ 1m (3½ft) ♀ 0.8m (2½ft)
Diet	Fruit, plants, insects
Where found	Borneo ( <i>Pongo pygmaeus</i> ) Sumatra ( <i>Pongo abelii</i> )
Survival	Critically endangered

“Orang-utan” is Malay for “person of the forest”. Of all the great apes, they’re most at home in trees. Orangs are heavy, and have to swing back and forth several times to move from tree to tree. Orang-utans are endangered because the forests they live in are being destroyed to plant palm trees, for their oil.

# Lar gibbon

White hands

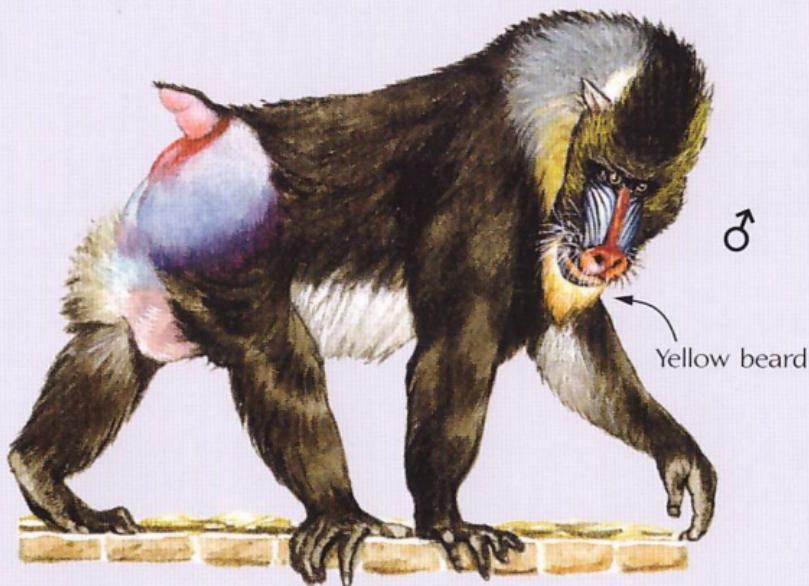


The fur colour ranges from cream to black.

Males and females look the same.

Scientific name	<i>Hylobates lar</i>
Family	Hylobatidae (gibbons)
Length	55cm (21½in)
Diet	Fruit, leaves, insects
Where found	Southeast Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Gibbons can swing between the trees, on their long arms, as quickly as a man can run. They also walk well on two legs, but rarely come down to the forest floor. Gibbons mate for life, and couples regularly sing to each other, performing duets with musical whooping sounds. Lar gibbons are choosy eaters: they only eat ripe fruit and fresh, young leaves.

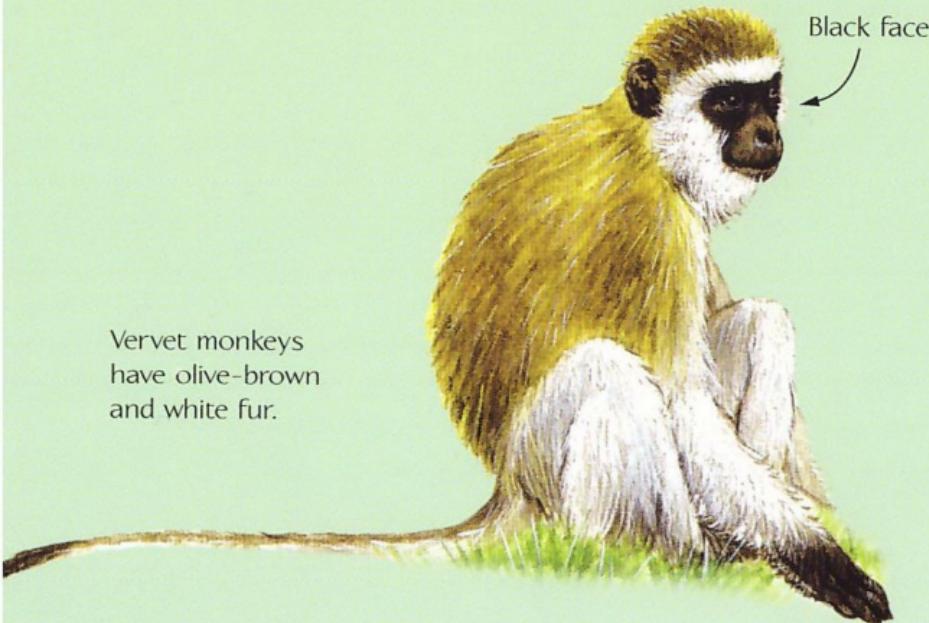


Scientific name	<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>
Family	Cercopithecidae (Old World monkeys)
Length	♂ 0.8m (2½ft) ♀ 0.6m (2ft)
Diet	Fruit, seeds, fungi, eggs, insects
Where found	Western Central Africa
Survival	Vulnerable

The biggest monkeys, mandrills have unmistakable red and blue faces and rumps. These are brightly coloured on the males, duller on the females. Mandrills live in big groups in thick rainforests. The group leader is the male with the brightest face. Mandrills have long, sharp teeth which they show off to rivals, appearing to yawn.

# Vervet monkey

30



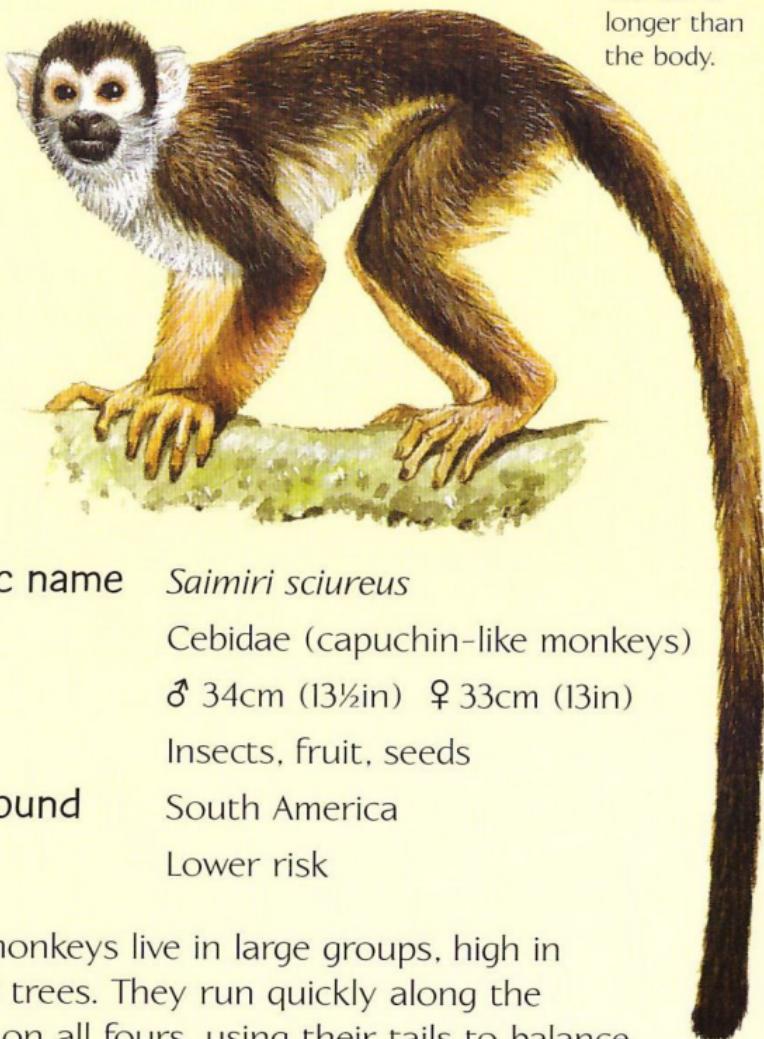
Vervet monkeys have olive-brown and white fur.

Scientific name	<i>Chlorocebus aethiops</i>
Family	Cercopithecidae (Old World monkeys)
Length	56cm (22in)
Diet	Fruit
Where found	Central and southeastern Africa
Survival	Lower risk

Vervet monkeys live in large groups, and have special calls to warn each other of specific predators. A bark is given for leopards, a cough for eagles, and a "chutter" sound for snakes. Male vervets are easily identified: between their legs, they are bright red and blue.

# Common squirrel monkey

White face  
with black  
muzzle



The tail is  
longer than  
the body.

Scientific name	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>
Family	Cebidae (capuchin-like monkeys)
Length	♂ 34cm (13½in) ♀ 33cm (13in)
Diet	Insects, fruit, seeds
Where found	South America
Survival	Lower risk

Squirrel monkeys live in large groups, high in rainforest trees. They run quickly along the branches on all fours, using their tails to balance. The females are the leaders. When feeding in dense forests, they keep in touch with a "chuck" call. Babies cling tightly to their mothers' backs from birth until they are old enough to look after themselves.

# White-faced saki

32

New World monkeys such as sakis usually have flatter noses than Old World monkeys, such as vervets (30).



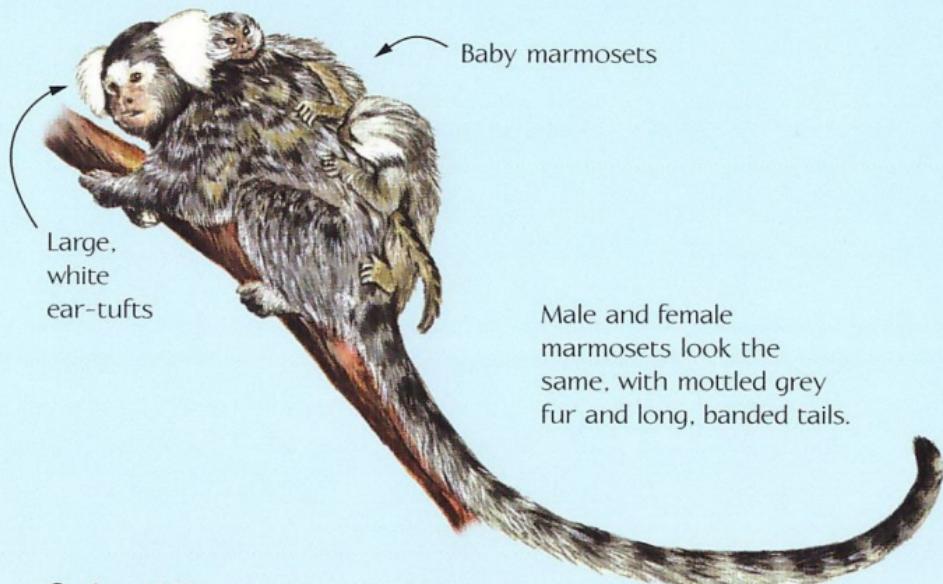
Sakis move along branches on all fours.

Scientific name	<i>Pithecia pithecia</i>
Family	Pitheciidae (sakis, uakaris and titis)
Length	♂ 35cm (13½in) ♀ 33.5cm (13¼in)
Diet	Fruit, seeds, flowers, nuts, honey, insects
Where found	South America
Survival	Lower risk

Only the males of this species have white faces. The females are brownish-grey with dark faces, and reddish stripes from their eyes to the corners of their mouth. Sakis are shy, and live in small family groups. When alarmed, they make bird-like calls. Also called "flying monkeys", they can leap up to 10m (33ft) between trees.

# Common marmoset

33



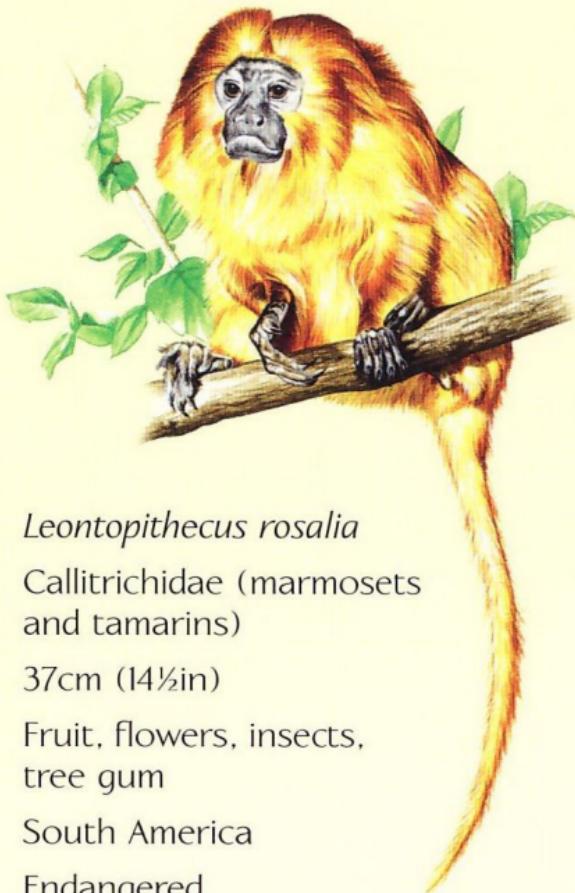
Scientific name	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>
Family	Callitrichidae (marmosets and tamarins)
Length	♂ 21cm (8½in) ♀ 20cm (7¾in)
Diet	Tree gum, fruit, insects
Where found	Brazil
Survival	Lower risk

Unlike larger monkeys, marmosets and tamarins have claws rather than nails (except on their big toes). These help them to grip branches tightly. Common marmosets live in pairs or small family groups. They usually give birth to twins, and the male often carries the babies on his back, passing them back to the female for feeding.

# Golden lion tamarin

34

Golden lion tamarins use their long fingers to winkle insects out of cracks in bark.



Scientific name	<i>Leontopithecus rosalia</i>
Family	Callitrichidae (marmosets and tamarins)
Length	37cm (14½in)
Diet	Fruit, flowers, insects, tree gum
Where found	South America
Survival	Endangered

Named because of their reddish-gold fur and long “mane”, these monkeys live in holes in hollow trees, which they usually line with body fur. There are few golden lion tamarins left in the wild, because most of their forest home in Brazil has been destroyed. Breeding them in zoos is helping to save them from extinction.

# Ring-tailed lemur



Dark, triangular  
eye-patches and  
dark muzzles

Bushy, black-  
and-white  
striped tail

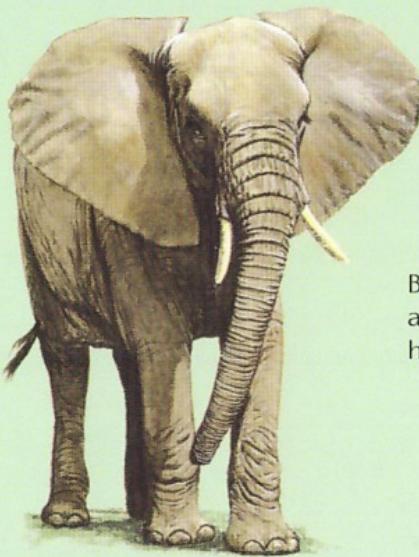
Scientific name	<i>Lemur catta</i>
Family	Lemuridae (typical lemurs)
Length	42.5cm (16¾in)
Diet	Fruit, leaves, flowers, bark
Where found	Madagascar
Survival	Vulnerable

Distant cousins of monkeys and apes, lemurs are only found on the island of Madagascar, southeast of Africa. Ring-tailed lemurs are cat-sized, and live in dry, scrubby forests. They spend more time on the ground than other lemurs, and often sit together, sunbathing with arms outstretched in a yoga-like position.

# African elephant

36

Large ears help African elephants to lose heat.



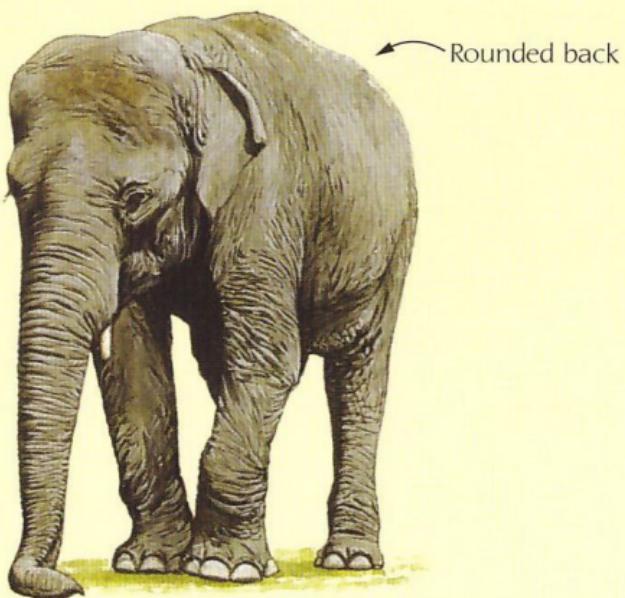
Both males and females have tusks.

Scientific name	<i>Loxodonta africana</i> (Savanna)
Family	Elephantidae (elephants)
Shoulder height	♂ 3.3m (10½ft) ♀ 2.7m (9ft)
Diet	Grass, leaves, bark, roots, fruit
Where found	Central and southern Africa
Survival	Vulnerable

African elephants are the largest of all land animals, and adult males can weigh up to 6 tonnes (6.6 tons). An elephant's trunk has many uses: as a nose, as an extra limb, for sucking up water, and even as a snorkel when swimming. There are two species of African elephant: savanna elephants live on open grassland, while forest elephants (including a pygmy type) live in the jungle.

# Asian elephant

37



Tusks are usually only found on males.

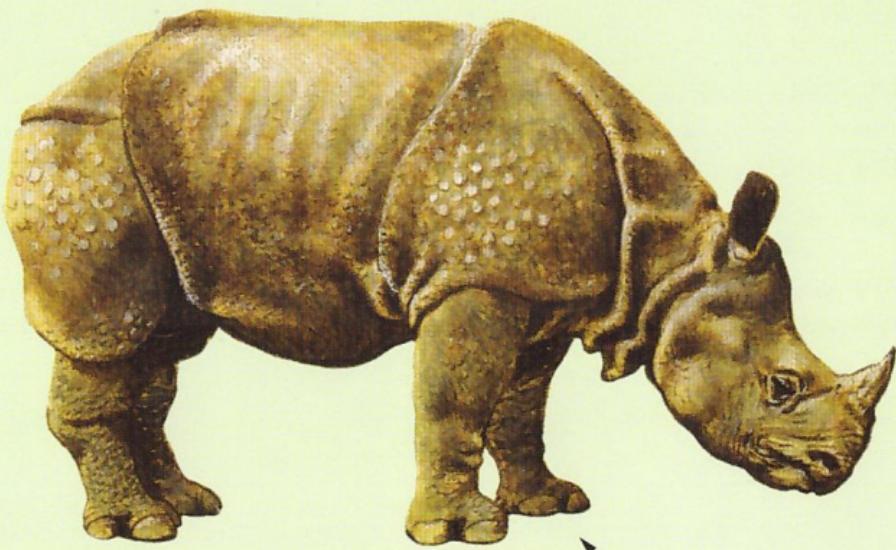
The trunk has one "lip" (Africans have two).

Scientific name	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Family	Elephantidae (elephants)
Shoulder height	2.75m (9ft)
Diet	Grass, leaves, bark, roots, stems
Where found	India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia
Survival	Endangered

Asian elephants have smaller ears than African elephants, and are easier to tame. Most living in Asia are working animals, especially used for carrying logs. Elephants are intelligent. They have the biggest brains of any animal, and spend many years teaching their young the skills they need to survive. The lifespan of elephants is close to that of people: about 70 years.

# Indian rhinoceros

38

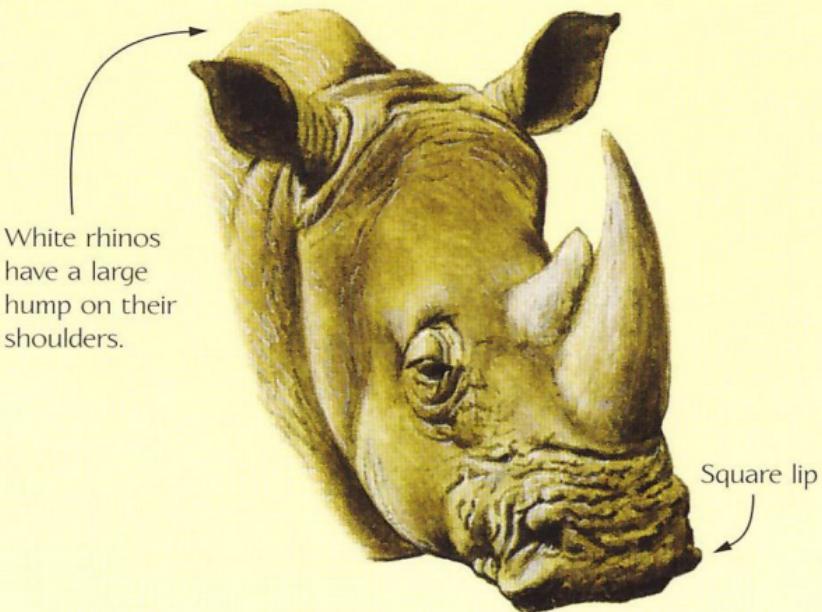


Three hoofs  
on each foot

Scientific name	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>
Family	Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceroses)
Shoulder height	♂ 1.8m (6ft) ♀ 1.6m (5½ft)
Diet	Grass
Where found	India, Nepal, Bhutan
Survival	Endangered

The word rhinoceros is Greek for “nose-horn”. Indian rhinos have just one horn on their nose, used for fights between rival males and for seeing off enemies, such as tigers. They have thick, folded skin that looks a bit like a suit of armour. When they’re not on land, grazing, Indian rhinos spend a lot of time in water.

# White rhinoceros



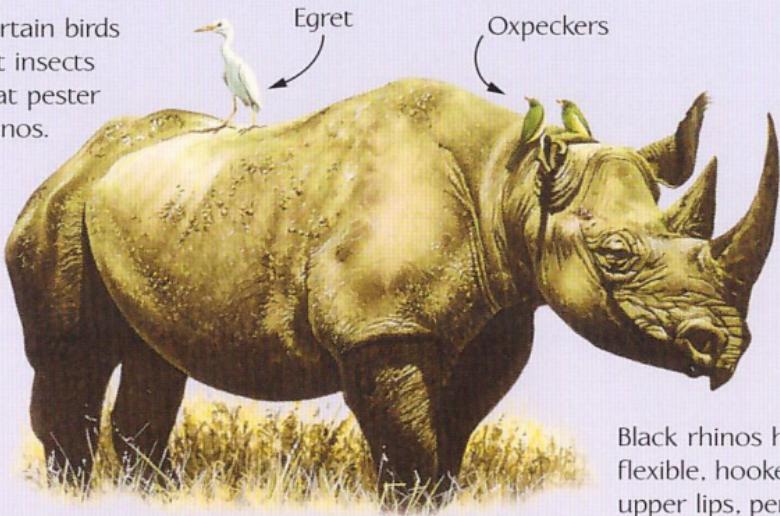
Scientific name	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Family	Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceroses)
Shoulder height	♂ 1.8m (6ft) ♀ 1.7m (5½ft)
Diet	Grass
Where found	Southern and northeast Africa
Survival	Lower risk

After elephants, white rhinos are the largest land animals. They have two nose-horns, the front one measuring up to 2m (6½ft). Rhinoceros horn is made of the same substance as your fingernails. White rhinos have wide upper lips well-suited to grazing. Unlike the solitary black rhinos (40), they sometimes live in herds.

# Black rhinoceros

40

Certain birds eat insects that pester rhinos.

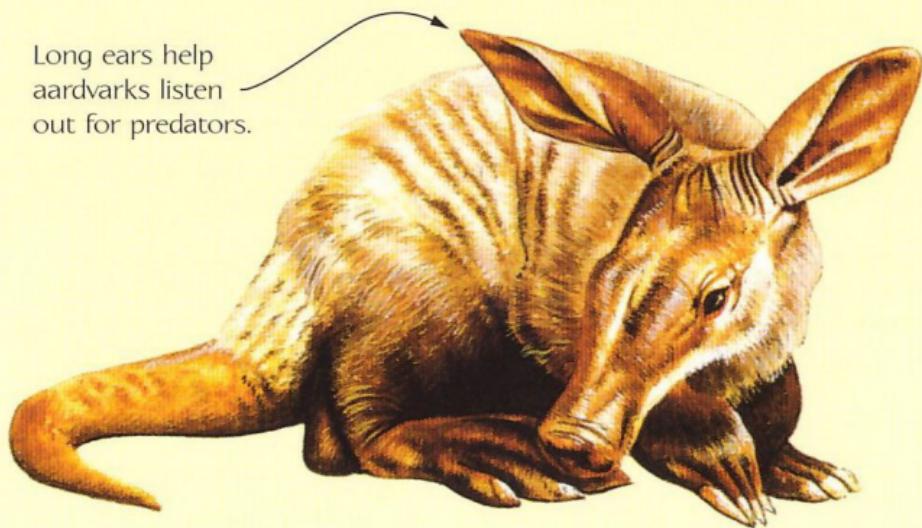


Black rhinos have flexible, hooked upper lips, perfect for plucking leaves.

Scientific name	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Family	Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceroses)
Shoulder height	1.6m (5½ft)
Diet	Leaves, twigs
Where found	Eastern and southern Africa
Survival	Critically endangered

Black rhinos are no more black than white rhinos (39) are white; they both have tough, grey skin. Both types often bathe in mud to remove biting insects, and stop sunburn, so they may appear brown. Black rhinos are endangered because people have hunted them for their horns. These are used in Chinese medicine and, in the Middle East, to make the handles of ornamental daggers.

# Aardvark



Strong claws  
for digging

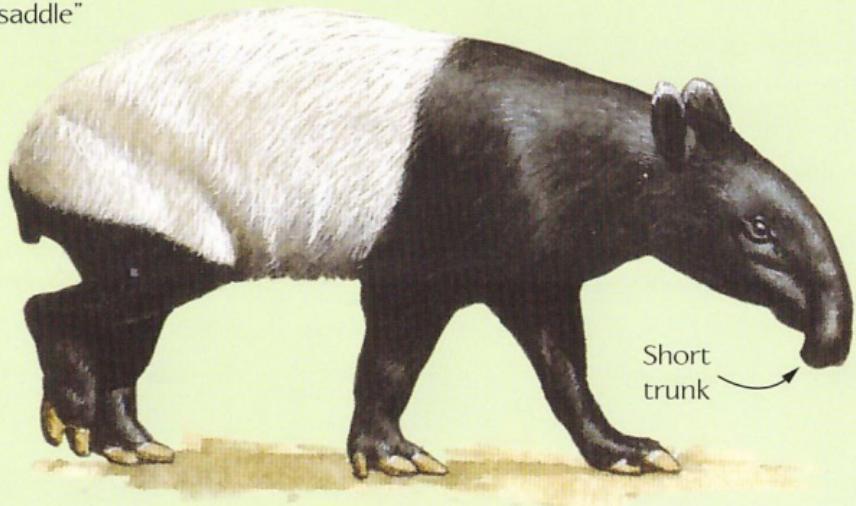
Scientific name	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>
Family	Orycteropodidae (aardvarks)
Length	1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Termites, ants
Where found	Central and southern Africa
Survival	Lower risk

The name of this rare animal is Afrikaans for “earth-pig”, after its rather pig-like snout and burrowing skills. Aardvarks feed at night, sniffing out ants and termites with long, sensitive snouts, unearthing them, then lapping them up with sticky tongues. Many animals, such as wild dogs (ll), use old aardvark burrows.

# Malayan tapir

42

White  
“saddle”



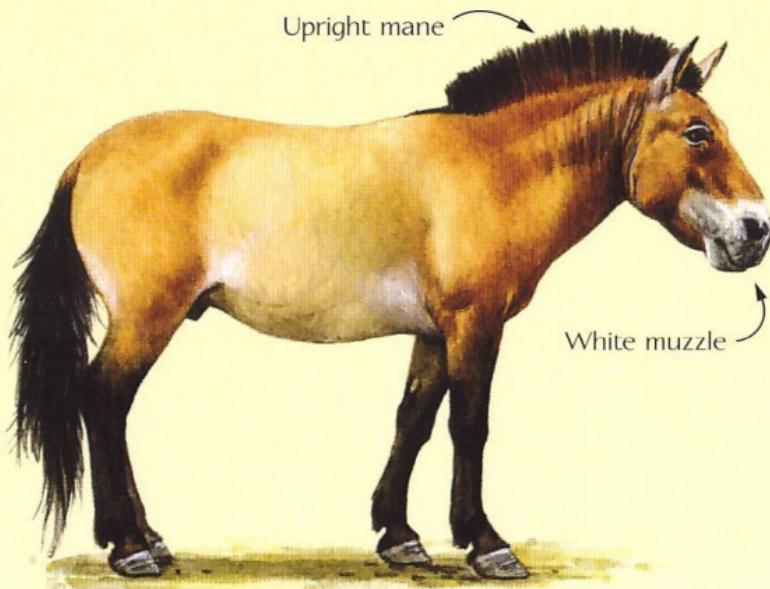
Short  
trunk

Scientific name	<i>Tapirus indicus</i>
Family	Tapiridae (tapirs)
Shoulder height	1m (3½ft)
Diet	Leaves
Where found	Southeast Asia
Survival	Vulnerable

Tapirs are distant relatives of rhinos. They have four hoofs on their front feet and three on their back feet. Tapirs have short trunks, used to pluck leaves. They feed at night, their black and white coats making them hard to see in the moonlit rainforest. Superb swimmers, Malayan tapirs spend much of their time in rivers.

# Przewalski's horse

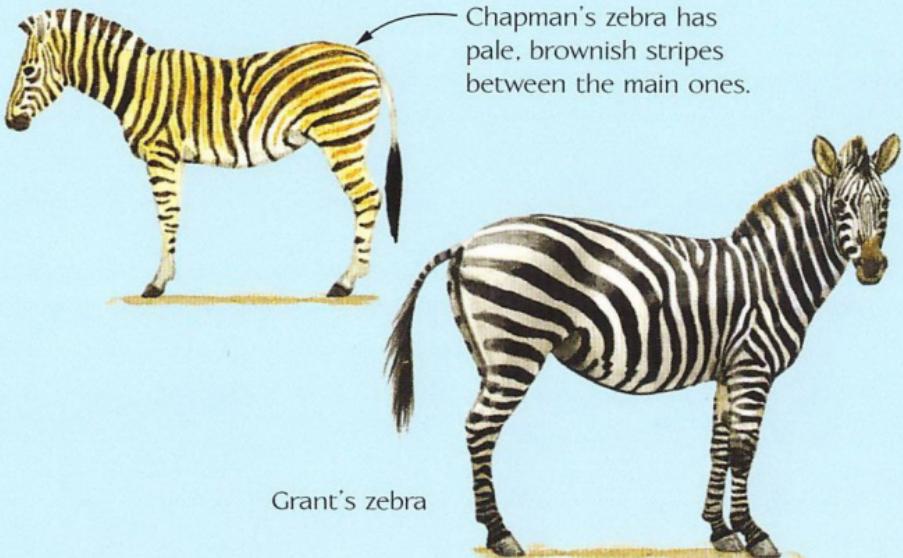
43



Scientific name	<i>Equus przewalskii</i>
Family	Equidae (horses)
Shoulder height	1.3m (4½ft)
Diet	Grass, plants, fruit
Where found	Mongolia
Survival	Extinct in the wild

Pronounced “shuh-vol-skeez”, these stocky little horses are the wild ancestors of tame horses. In Mongolia, they are known as takhi. Discovered in the 1870s, they had died out in the wild by the 1960s. Today, after successful breeding in zoos, Przewalski’s horse is slowly being released into the wild once more.

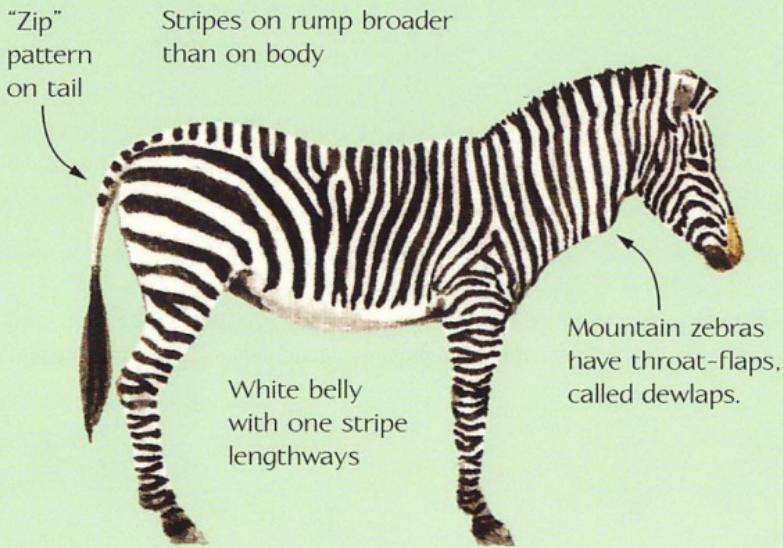
# Plains zebra



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
<b>Family</b>	Equidae (horses)
<b>Shoulder height</b>	1.3m (4½ft)
<b>Diet</b>	Grass
<b>Where found</b>	Southeastern Africa
<b>Survival</b>	Lower risk

Also known as common zebras, these dumpy little striped horses live in large herds on the African plains. There are several sorts of plains zebra. The most common is Grant's zebra, mainly from Tanzania and Kenya. Chapman's zebra, from Zimbabwe, is rarer. Unlike horses, plains zebras don't neigh – they bark.

# Mountain zebra

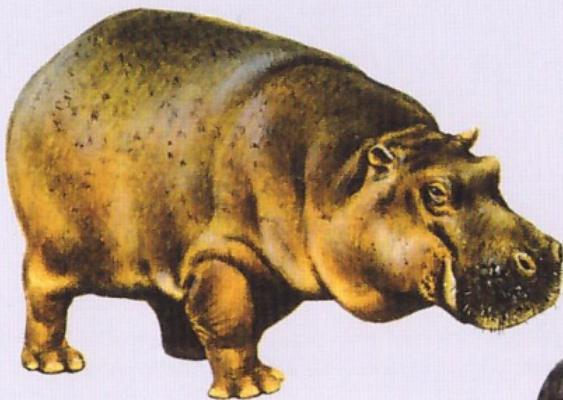


<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Equus zebra</i>
<b>Family</b>	Equidae (horses)
<b>Shoulder height</b>	1.3m (4½ft)
<b>Diet</b>	Grass, leaves, bark
<b>Where found</b>	South Africa, Namibia
<b>Survival</b>	Endangered

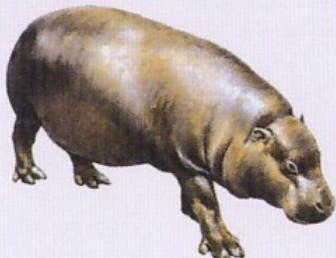
These, the smallest zebras, live in mountain grasslands. They have hard, pointed hoofs that help them to climb steep, rocky slopes. Unlike plains zebras (44), they neigh like horses. The mountain zebras of South Africa were hunted to near-extinction by 1950. Laws were passed to protect them, and now their numbers are slowly growing.

# Hippopotamus

46



Inside their huge mouths, hippos have large tusks.

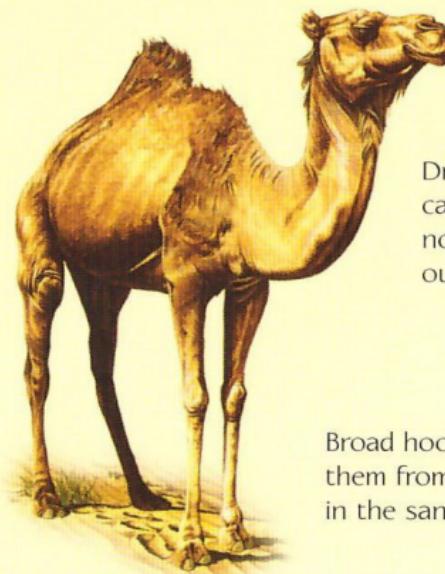


Pygmy hippos grow about 0.9m (3ft) high.

Scientific name	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Family	Hippopotamidae (hippopotamuses)
Shoulder height	1.4m (4½ft)
Diet	Grass
Where found	Africa, south of the Sahara Desert
Survival	Lower risk

These hefty, barrel-shaped creatures spend most of the day in warm water, coming on land to graze at night. They may look easy-going, but hippos are aggressive and dangerous. In Africa, they kill more people than lions do. Pygmy hippos (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis*), a smaller species, live in West African rainforests.

Known as the "ships of the desert", camels have been used for desert travel for thousands of years.



Dromedaries can close their nostrils to keep out desert sand.

Broad hoofs stop them from sinking in the sand.

Scientific name	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Family	Camelidae (camels and llamas)
Hump height	2.1m (7ft)
Diet	Thorny desert plants, dry grasses
Where found	North Africa, Middle East, Western Asia, Australia
Survival	Lower risk

A dromedary, also called an Arabian camel, has one hump on its back. This is used to store fat for times when food is scarce. Dromedaries are supremely suited to life in dry, scorching deserts. They are able to go for months without drinking. When they find water, they can gulp down 136 litres (30 gallons) in one go.

To remember which camel is which, look at the first letter of its name: Bactrians have two humps. Dromedaries one.

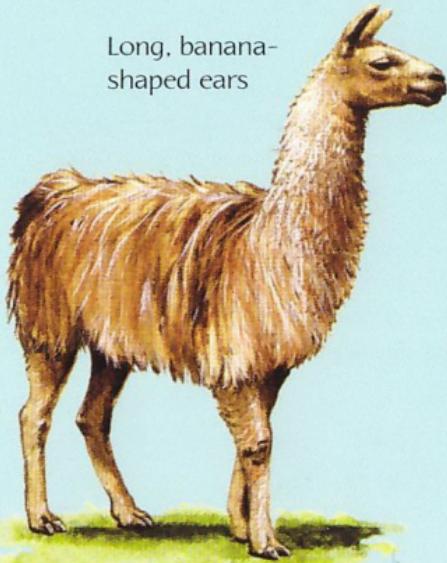


Scientific name	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i> (tame) <i>Camelus ferus</i> (wild)
Family	Camelidae (camels and llamas)
Hump height	2.1m (7ft)
Diet	Thorny desert plants, dry grasses
Where found	Central Asia, Far East
Survival	Critically endangered (wild species)

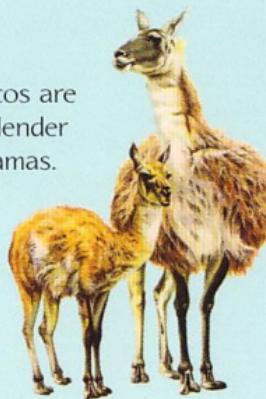
Bactrian camels have two humps, and are covered in shaggy hair to keep them warm in the cold, windy deserts where they live. Like dromedaries (47), they are used as pack animals. Unlike them, however, a few wild Bactrians still survive, in Mongolia and China. Amazingly, these wild camels are able to drink salt water.

# Llama

Long, banana-shaped ears



Guanacos are more slender than llamas.



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Lama glama</i>
<b>Family</b>	Camelidae (camels and llamas)
<b>Shoulder height</b>	1.1m (3½ft)
<b>Diet</b>	Leaves, grass, lichen
<b>Where found</b>	South America
<b>Survival</b>	Lower risk (all are tame animals)

Llamas are close relatives of camels, with long ears and no humps. Like camels, they have been tamed by people and are used to carry heavy loads. Their thick hair can be white, black, grey, brown or mixed, and is used to make wool. A type of wild llama, called a guanaco, still lives in the Andes Mountains of South America.

# American bison

50



Scientific name *Bison bison*

Family Bovidae (cattle, sheep, goats and antelope)

Shoulder height ♂ 1.75m (5½ft) ♀ 1.5m (5ft)

Diet Grass

Where found North America

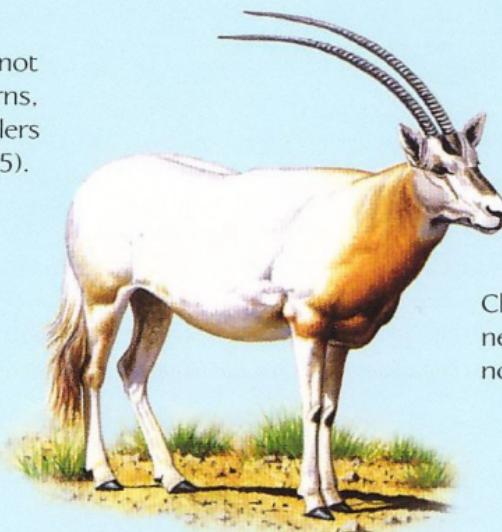
Survival Lower risk

Also called buffalo, these shaggy, humpbacked wild cattle used to roam in their millions across the plains of North America. In the late 19th century, they were nearly wiped out by hunting, and are now mainly found in wildlife reserves. Their humps are massive shoulder muscles needed to hold up their huge heads.

# Scimitar-horned oryx

51

Antelopes do not shed their horns, unlike the antlers of deer (see 55).



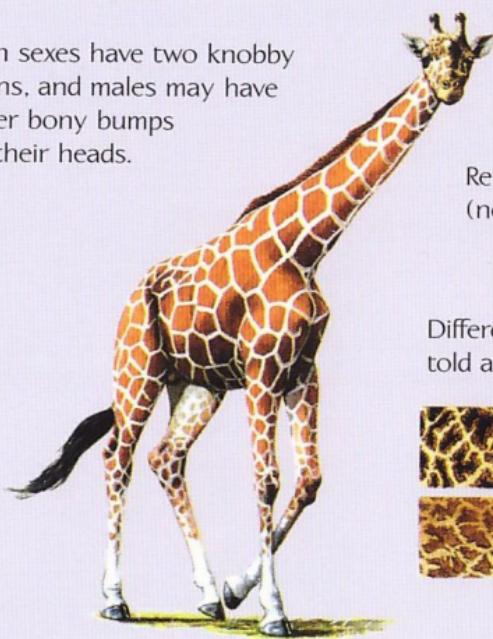
Chestnut brown  
neck, chest and  
nose-stripe

Scientific name	<i>Oryx dammah</i>
Family	Bovidae (cattle, sheep, goats and antelope)
Shoulder height	1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Leaves, grass, fruit
Where found	North Africa
Survival	Extinct in the wild

Scimitar-horned oryx are large antelope with curved horns (a scimitar is a curved Middle Eastern sword). They used to live all over North Africa, but died out because their homeland turned into desert, and they were hunted for meat. In 2007, thanks to breeding in zoos and wildlife reserves, these rare creatures started to be released back into the wild, in Tunisia.

# Giraffe

Both sexes have two knobby horns, and males may have other bony bumps on their heads.



Reticulated giraffe  
(northern Kenya)

Different types of giraffe can be told apart by their coat patterns:



Masai giraffe (southern Kenya and Tanzania)

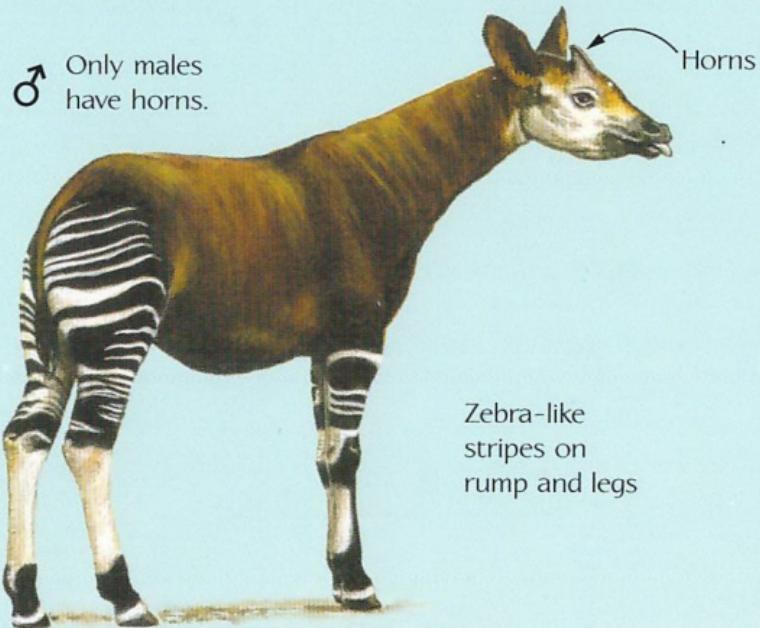


South African giraffe  
(southern Africa)

Scientific name	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Family	Giraffidae (giraffes and okapis)
Total height	♂ 5m (16½ft) ♀ 4½m (14ft)
Diet	Leaves, mainly acacia
Where found	Africa, south of the Sahara Desert
Survival	Lower risk

The world's tallest animals, giraffes have to spread their front legs wide apart to stoop and drink. When they walk, they move both right legs together, then the left legs. Giraffes have long, flexible, bluish-black tongues, which they use to pluck leaves from between the thorns of acacia trees.

# Okapi



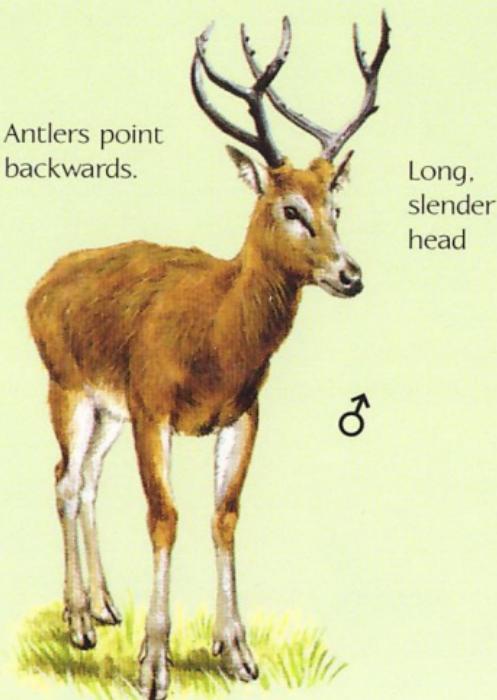
Scientific name	<i>Okapia johnstoni</i>
Family	Giraffidae (giraffes and okapis)
Shoulder height	1.6m (5½ft) total height: 1.9m (6½ft)
Diet	Leaves, fruit, seeds
Where found	Democratic Republic of Congo
Survival	Lower risk

The only close living relatives of giraffes, okapis were not discovered until 1901. They feed at night in the rainforest, when their markings make them near-invisible. Like giraffes, they have blackish tongues long enough to lick their own ears. Okapis are still very mysterious: little is known about their life in the wild.

# Père David's deer

54

Coat reddish in summer; grey in winter



Scientific name	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>
Family	Cervidae (deer)
Shoulder height	1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Grass
Where found	China (now only in reserves)
Survival	Critically endangered

Known as milu in its homeland, China, this rare deer became extinct there in 1920. Fortunately, a number of deer had been sent to zoos in Europe, where they were bred, and sent back to China. Today, over 1,300 Père David's deer roam free in Chinese wildlife reserves.

# Reindeer

55

Coat colour varies from grey to brown, tan or white.



Females have smaller antlers.

♂

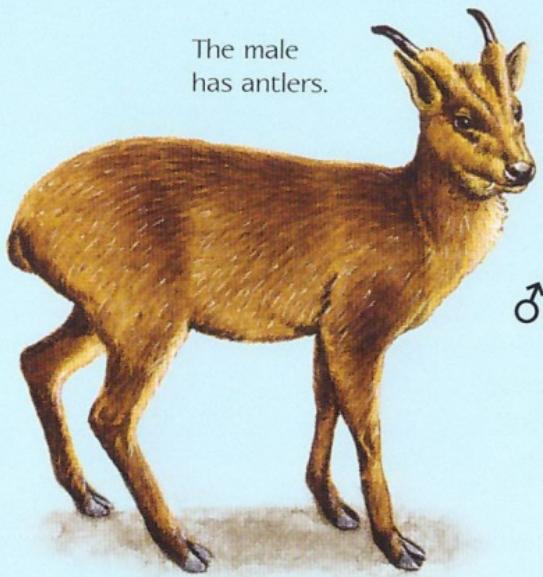
Broad hoofs stop reindeer from sinking in snow.

Scientific name	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
Family	Cervidae (deer)
Shoulder height	♂ 1.2m (4ft) ♀ 1.1m (3½ft)
Diet	Plants, lichen
Where found	North America, Northern Europe, Northern Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Called caribou in North America, reindeer have branching, velvety antlers that fall off and regrow each year. They have two layers of hair, to keep them warm in their chilly homelands. Each spring, vast herds of reindeer migrate thousands of kilometres to find new grazing land. Their legs click as they walk.

# Reeves's muntjac

56

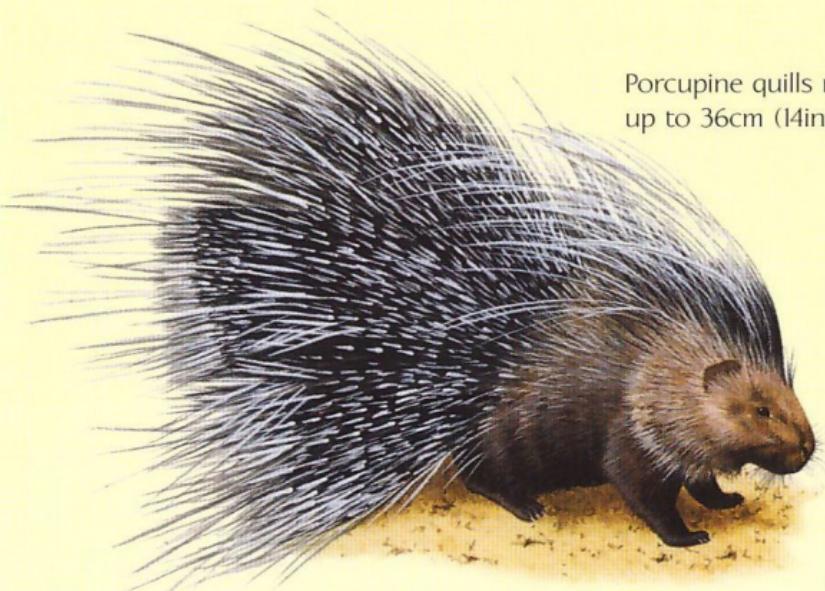


Scientific name	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
Family	Cervidae (deer)
Shoulder height	41cm (16in)
Diet	Grass, fruit, seeds
Where found	Eastern China, Taiwan, England
Survival	Lower risk

Also known as barking deer, these dainty, chestnut-coloured creatures make a dog-like call when alarmed. Muntjacs have little tusks, which the males use when fighting each other. A number of these deer now live wild in English woods after escaping from wildlife parks. They are most active at dawn and dusk.

# Crested porcupine

57



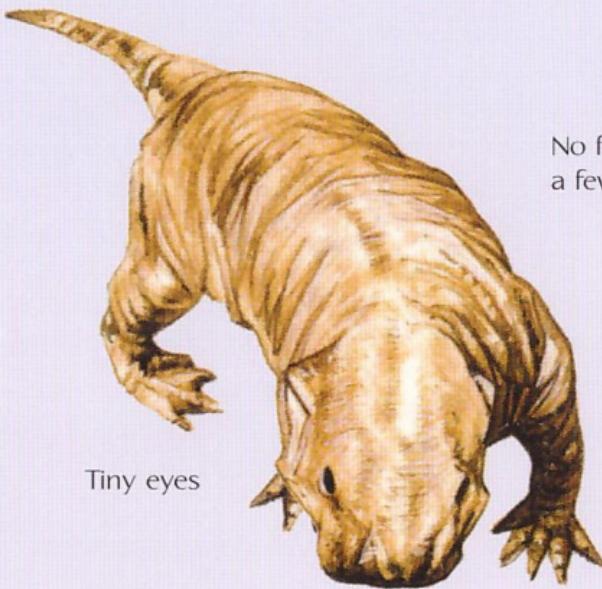
Porcupine quills may be up to 36cm (14in) long.

Scientific name	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>
Family	Hystricidae (Old World porcupines)
Length	71cm (28in)
Diet	Bark, roots, insects, fruit
Where found	North Africa, Italy
Survival	Lower risk

Crested porcupines are large rodents covered with long, black-and-white-striped quills. Those on their back are especially strong, and are used to defend themselves. First, they rattle the quills to show they mean business. If that doesn't scare off their attacker, they charge backwards towards it, leaving quills embedded in its skin.

# Naked mole-rat

58



Tiny eyes

No fur – just  
a few whiskers

No ear-  
flaps

Scientific name	<i>Heterocephalus glaber</i>
Family	Bathyergidae (African mole-rats)
Length	10.5cm (4in)
Diet	Tubers (starchy, potato-like stems)
Where found	East Africa
Survival	Lower risk

Looking rather like sausages with teeth, naked mole-rats spend their whole lives underground, in big, complicated burrows beneath dry grasslands. They live in ordered colonies led by a queen rat, who is the only one to have babies. The other mole-rats have jobs, too: diggers, guards, food-finders or mates for the queen.

# Capybara

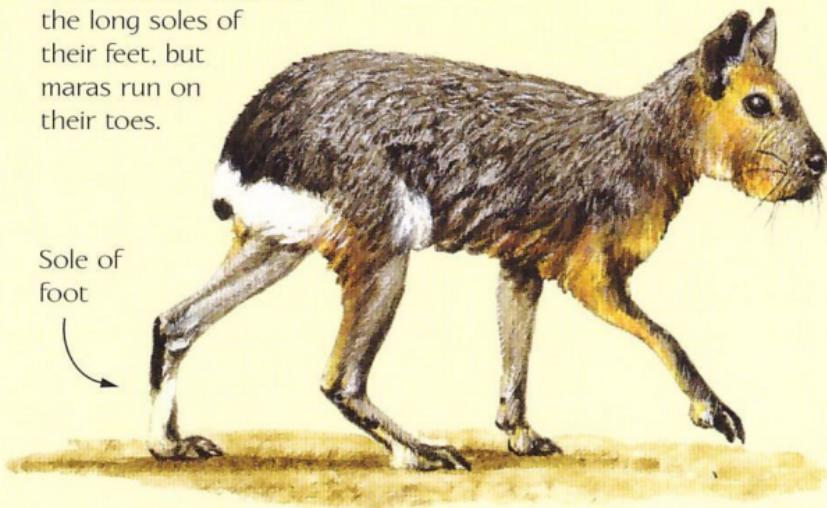
Capybaras have no tail.



Scientific name	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>
Family	Hydrochaeridae (capybaras)
Length	1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Grass, water plants
Where found	South America
Survival	Lower risk

The largest of all rodents, capybaras look rather like giant, square-nosed guinea pigs. They live in herds and feed mainly on grass. Capybaras spend a lot of time in rivers. They have partly-webbed feet for swimming and can stay under water for five minutes. Young capybaras purr to let their parents know where they are.

Most rodents walk on the long soles of their feet, but maras run on their toes.



**Scientific name** *Dolichotis patagonum*

**Family** Caviidae (cavies)

**Length** 63cm (25in)

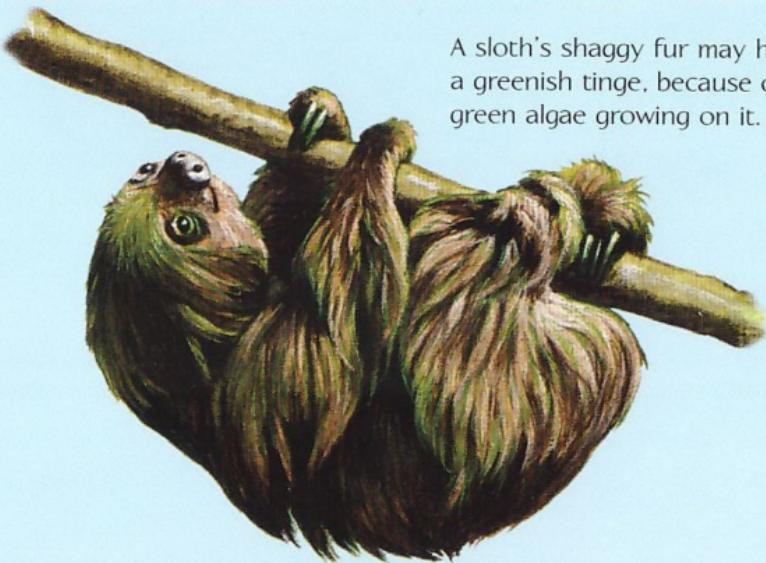
**Diet** Grass

**Where found** Argentina

**Survival** Lower risk

These rodents are related to cavies (wild guinea pigs). Maras look a bit like big, short-eared rabbits with deer-like legs. Raising young is hard work for the females, so they spend a lot of time grazing to build up their energy, while the males watch out for danger. Unusually for rodents, maras mate for life. In the breeding season, many pairs house their young in the same den.

# Southern two-toed sloth



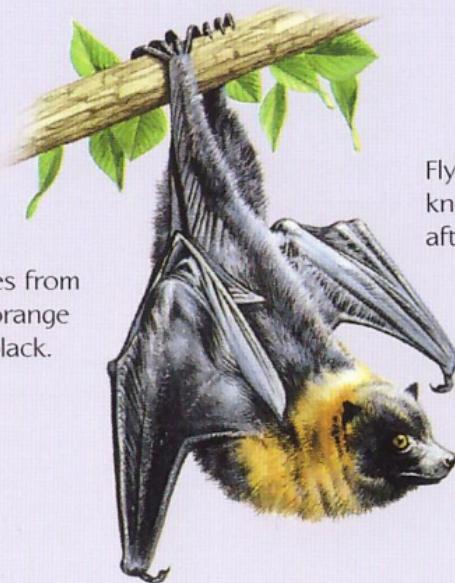
A sloth's shaggy fur may have a greenish tinge, because of green algae growing on it.

Scientific name	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>
Family	Megalonychidae (two-toed sloths)
Length	64cm (25½in)
Diet	Leaves
Where found	Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

This unusual animal spends most of its life hanging upside down from trees with its long, hooked claws. It eats, mates and gives birth in this position, and even its fur grows upside down. Sloths move very slowly, because their leafy diet gives them little energy. Two-toed sloth is a misleading name – they actually have three claws on their feet, and two on their hands.

# Rodrigues flying fox

62



Colour ranges from yellow, red, orange or silver to black.

Flying foxes are also known as fruit bats, after their main diet.

Scientific name	<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>
Family	Pteropodidae (flying foxes)
Length	20cm (7½in) wingspan 0.75m (2½ft)
Diet	Fruit, flowers, leaves
Where found	Rodrigues Island
Survival	Critically endangered

Flying foxes are the largest kind of bat. This type is only found on Rodrigues Island, east of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean. In 1974, it was nearly wiped out when a tropical storm left just 70 bats alive. In order to prevent them from dying out, Rodrigues flying foxes are bred in zoos all over the world. Another bad storm in 2003 was a reminder of how important this is.

# Giant anteater

63



Long claws for digging,  
and fending off predators  
such as jaguars (5)

**Scientific name** *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*

**Family** Myrmecophagidae (anteaters)

**Length** 1.1m (3½ft)

**Diet** Ants, termites

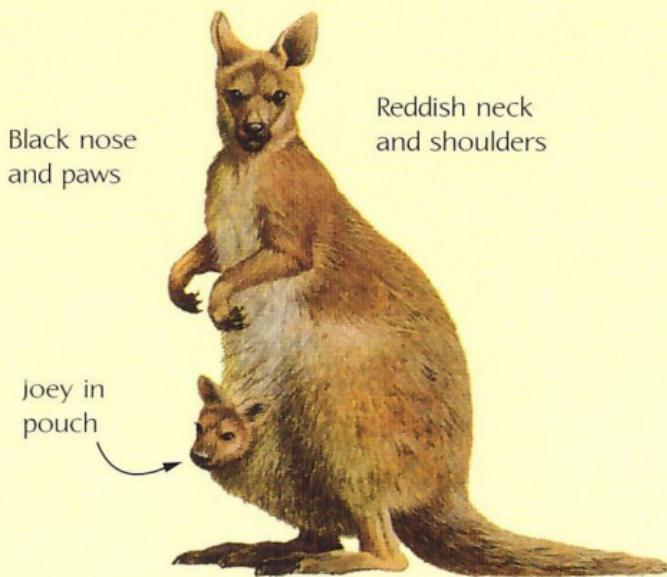
**Where found** Central and South America

**Survival** Lower risk

Giant anteaters live up to their name: they grow to 2.2m (7½ft) in length, including the tail, and eat only ants and termites. Anteaters dig for ants with powerful claws, then lap them up with a sticky tongue that can be 60cm (24in) long. Giant anteaters sleep in burrows by day, with their long, bushy tails curled around them.

# Red-necked wallaby

64



Scientific name	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>
Family	Macropodidae (kangaroos)
Length	1m (3½ft)
Diet	Grass
Where found	Australia, Great Britain
Survival	Lower risk

Wallabies are small kangaroos. Like other marsupials, they carry and feed their young, known as joeys, in a pouch. Red-necked wallabies come out to graze mainly at dawn and dusk. On their big feet, they can hop along at over 64kph (40mph). In Britain, a few animals have escaped from zoos and live in the wild.



Scientific name	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Family	Phascolarctidae (koalas)
Length	♂ 78cm (30¾in) ♀ 72cm (28½in)
Diet	Eucalyptus leaves
Where found	Eastern Australia
Survival	Lower risk

Koalas, like kangaroos, belong to a large group of mammals called the marsupials, that carry and feed their young in pouches. They live in trees, clinging on with sharp, curved claws. Koalas eat mainly eucalyptus leaves, which don't give them much energy, so they spend most of their time asleep. Koalas rarely drink, getting all of the water they need from the leaves.



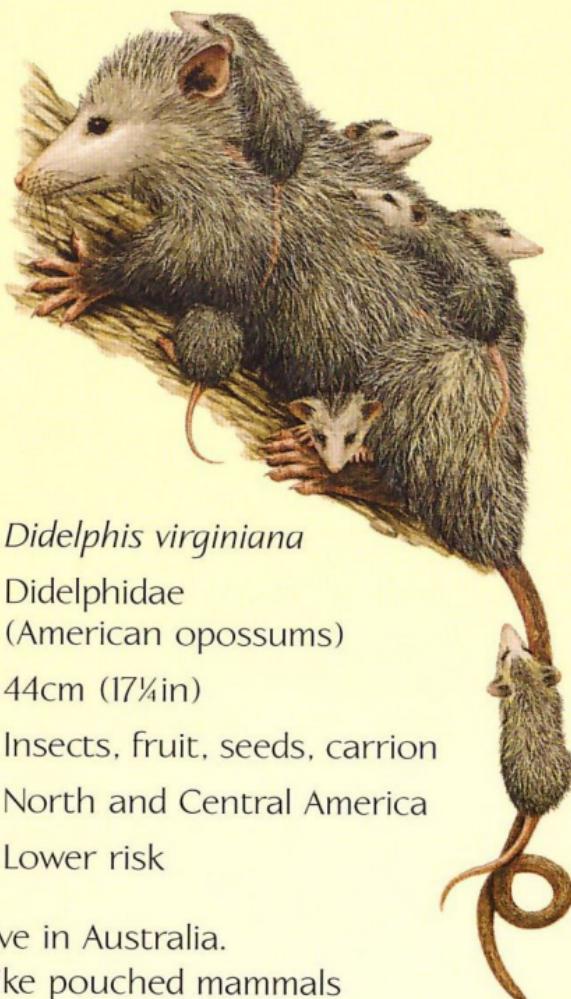
Spines up to  
5cm (2in) long

Scientific name	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Family	Tachyglossidae (echidnas)
Length	♂ 37.5cm (14½in) ♀ 30cm (11½in)
Diet	Ants, termites
Where found	Australia
Survival	Lower risk

Also known as spiny anteaters, echidnas are one of the very few mammals that lay eggs (the only others are duck-billed platypuses). Echidnas use their long snouts to sniff out ants, then dig them up with their sharp claws. If threatened, an echidna will quickly burrow into the ground, leaving only its prickly spines showing.

# Virginia opossum

When young opossums are too big for their mother's pouch, they cling to her fur.



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
<b>Family</b>	Didelphidae (American opossums)
<b>Length</b>	44cm (17½in)
<b>Diet</b>	Insects, fruit, seeds, carrion
<b>Where found</b>	North and Central America
<b>Survival</b>	Lower risk

Not all marsupials live in Australia. Opossums are rat-like pouched mammals that live in the Americas. The largest and most common are the cat-sized Virginia opossums. They are good climbers, and can grip branches with their toes and tails. When threatened by a predator, they pretend to be dead, lying completely still with their eyes and mouth open.



**Scientific name** *Eunectes murinus*

**Family** Boidae (boas)

**Total length** ♀ 10m (33ft) maximum

**Diet** Large mammals

**Where found** South America

**Survival** Lower risk

Anacondas are the world's biggest snakes. Reticulated pythons may grow a little longer, but anacondas can be as thick as a man's waist, and weigh up to 250kg (550lb). They live in rivers, and feed on animals such as capybaras (59). Anacondas kill by squeezing their prey until it suffocates, then they swallow it whole.

Pinkish or tan skin with chestnut brown to black saddle-like markings



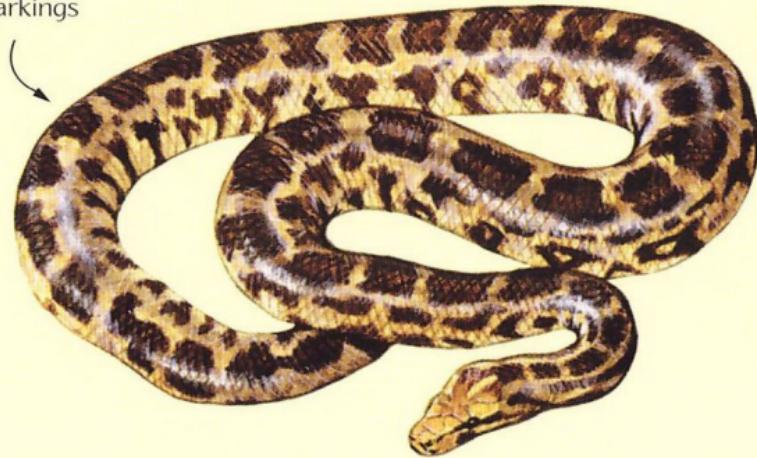
Scientific name	<i>Boa constrictor</i>
Family	Boidae (boas)
Total length	♀ 5.5m (18ft) maximum
Diet	Birds, small mammals
Where found	Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

*Boa constrictor* is Latin for “large constricting snake”. It’s one of the very few animals whose common and scientific names are the same. Like all its family, it isn’t poisonous, but kills by squeezing and suffocating its prey. Unusually for reptiles, most boas (and anacondas) don’t lay eggs, but give birth to live young.

# Indian rock python

70

Rectangular brown markings



Scientific name	<i>Python molurus molurus</i>
Family	Pythonidae (pythons)
Total length	♀ 9m (29½ft) maximum
Diet	Small mammals
Where found	Southern Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Asian rock pythons are the largest snakes in India. Like all snakes, pythons can unhinge their jaws in order to swallow prey larger than themselves. They have organs in their lips that allow them to sense heat, helping them to find animals in the dark. There are many types of python, told apart by their markings.

Hood lowered



Hood raised  
in warning  
display

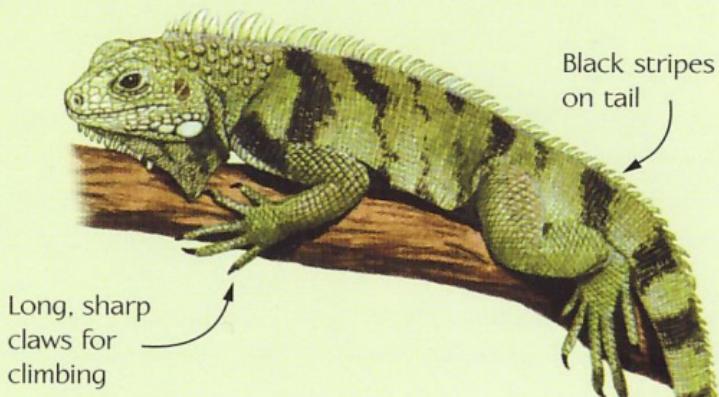


Scientific name	<i>Naja naja</i>
Family	Elapidae (grooved-fang snakes)
Total length	1.8m (6ft) maximum
Diet	Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians
Where found	India
Survival	Lower risk

Cobras belong to a family of snakes that kill their prey by biting them quickly with poisonous fangs. When a cobra feels threatened, or is about to strike, it raises a hood of skin around its neck. The back of the hood has a pattern that looks a bit like an old-fashioned pair of glasses. Cobras live mainly in forests and on farmland.

# Green iguana

72



Scientific name	<i>Iguana iguana</i>
Family	Iguanidae (iguanas)
Total length	♂ 2m (6½ft) maximum
Diet	Leaves, flowers, fruit
Where found	Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

These large lizards live in the rainforest, where they spend most of their time in the treetops, basking in the sunshine. Iguanas usually live by water, and are good swimmers, propelling themselves along with their long tails. They also use their tails as weapons, lashing out at enemies. Iguanas change colour with mood, temperature, during breeding, or to show their importance to other iguanas.

# Common chameleon

73



Chameleons use their tails to grip branches, coiling them up when not in use.

Scientific name	<i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i>
Family	Chamaeleonidae (chameleons)
Total length	30cm (11½in) maximum
Diet	Insects, small birds and reptiles
Where found	North Africa, Middle East, Spain
Survival	Lower risk

A chameleon's green colour matches the greenery of the trees it lives in. It also has a leaf-like outline when viewed from in front, helping it to wait for prey unseen. Chameleons change colour as the light, the temperature, or their mood varies. They catch their prey by shooting out a long, sticky tongue in less than  $\frac{1}{100}$  of a second.

# Shingleback skink

74



Wide, blunt,  
triangular  
head

Scientific name	<i>Tiliqua rugosus</i>
Family	Scincidae (skinks)
Total length	45cm (17½in) maximum
Diet	Insects, worms, fruit, flowers
Where found	Southern and eastern Australia
Survival	Lower risk

Also called a stumpy-tailed skink, this sluggish, desert-dwelling lizard stores fat in its tail for times when food is scarce. This fat tail is hard to tell from its head, and can confuse animals that try to attack it. Shingleback skinks have tough, armour-like scales, and blue tongues, which they stick out to scare their enemies.

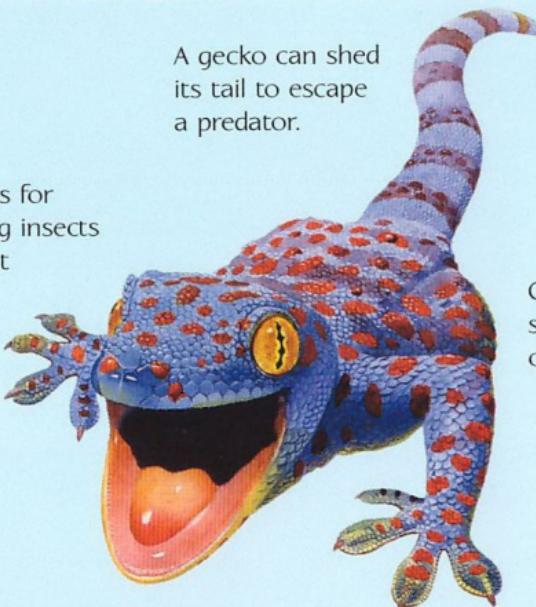
# Tokay gecko

75

A gecko can shed its tail to escape a predator.

Big eyes for spotting insects at night

Greyish-blue skin with red-orange spots



Scientific name	<i>Gekko gecko</i>
Family	Gekkonidae (geckoes)
Total length	♂ 40cm (15¾in) ♀ 30cm (11¾in)
Diet	Insects, small mice
Where found	Southeast Asia, Australasia
Survival	Lower risk

These lizards are named after their mating call, which sound a bit like “geck-oh”. They hunt for insects at night, in the trees, and often in people’s houses. Geckoes can cling to even the smoothest surfaces with microscopic hairs on their feet. They have no eyelids, but instead have a clear film over their eyes, which they lick to keep clean. Tokay geckoes are very fierce.

# Nile monitor

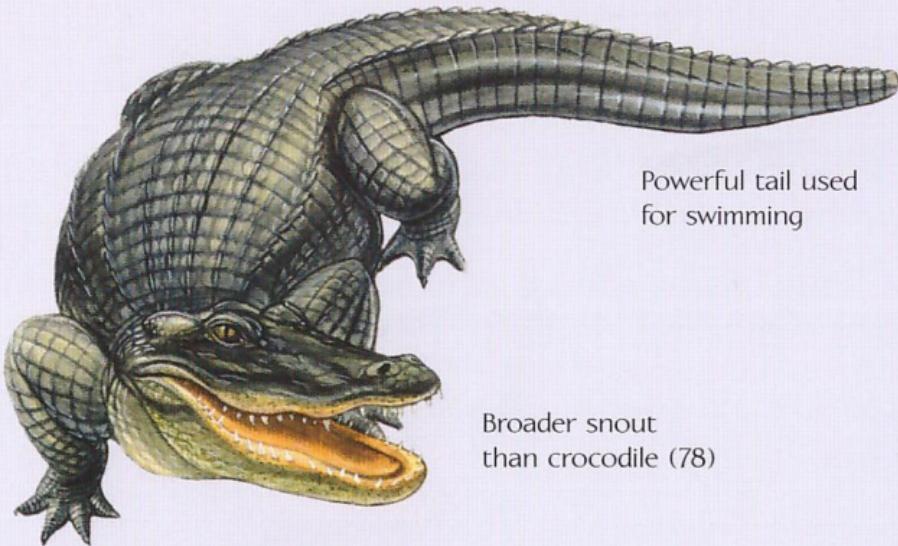
76



Grey to brown skin  
with pale yellow  
rings and stripes

Scientific name	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Family	Varanidae (monitor lizards)
Total length	2.25m (7½ft) maximum
Diet	Fish, eggs, amphibians, insects
Where found	Africa
Survival	Lower risk

Nile monitors are the biggest lizards in Africa. They live near rivers, often stealing crocodile eggs to eat. They swim well and can stay under water for over an hour. Nile monitors have forked, blue tongues which they constantly flick in and out to smell the air. The females lay their eggs in termite mounds, so that the heat of the insects keeps them warm.



Powerful tail used  
for swimming

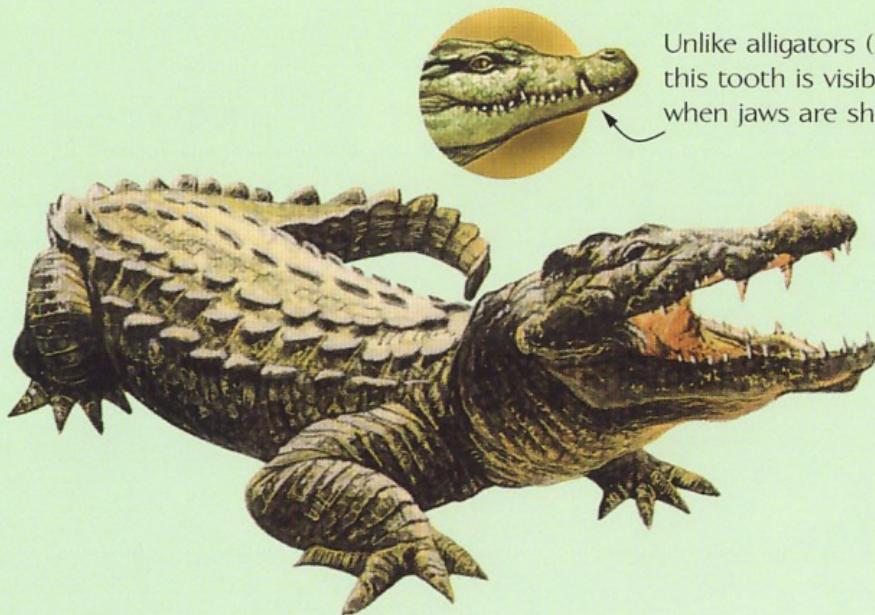
Broader snout  
than crocodile (78)

Scientific name	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>
Family	Alligatoridae (alligators)
Total length	♂ 5m (16½ft) maximum
Diet	Fish, turtles, small mammals, birds
Where found	Southeastern USA
Survival	Lower risk

The largest reptiles in North America, alligators live and hunt in wet areas such as swamps. They dig hollows, known as "gator holes", with their feet, snout and tail. The holes fill up with water, and are their home when the swamp dries up in the summer. Young alligators look like miniature adults with yellow spots and stripes.

# Nile crocodile

78



Unlike alligators (77), this tooth is visible when jaws are shut.

Scientific name	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Family	Crocodylidae (crocodiles)
Total length	♂ 6m (19½ft) maximum
Diet	Fish, small to large mammals
Where found	Africa
Survival	Lower risk

Crocodiles keep very still most of the time, saving energy. When they attack, though, they swim rapidly, seizing their prey with strong teeth. They drag their victim under water to drown it, often spinning it around in a "death roll". Several crocs may join to attack larger prey, biting and spinning to tear off chunks of meat.

# Green and black poison dart frog

79

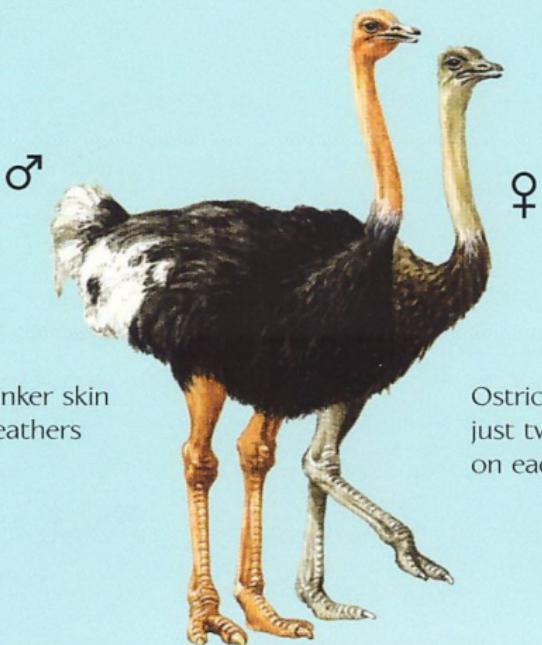
Despite their name, these frogs can be green, yellow or blue mixed with black or brown.



Sticky toes  
for climbing  
trees

Scientific name	<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>
Family	Dendrobatidae (poison-dart frogs)
Total length	4cm (1½in)
Diet	Insects, especially poisonous ants
Where found	Central and South America, Hawaii
Survival	Lower risk

These frogs live in trees in the moist rainforests of the Americas. Their name comes from the deadly poison that oozes from their skin to put off hungry animals. South American Indians dip their weapons in it for hunting. After poison-dart tadpoles hatch from their eggs, they're carried on their father's back to a pool of water in a tree-hole or hollow plant.



Males have pinker skin and blacker feathers than females.

Ostriches have just two toes on each foot.

## Scientific name

*Struthio camelus*

## Family

Struthionidae (ostriches)

## Total height

2m (6½ft)

## Diet

Grass, seeds, leaves, small animals

## Where found

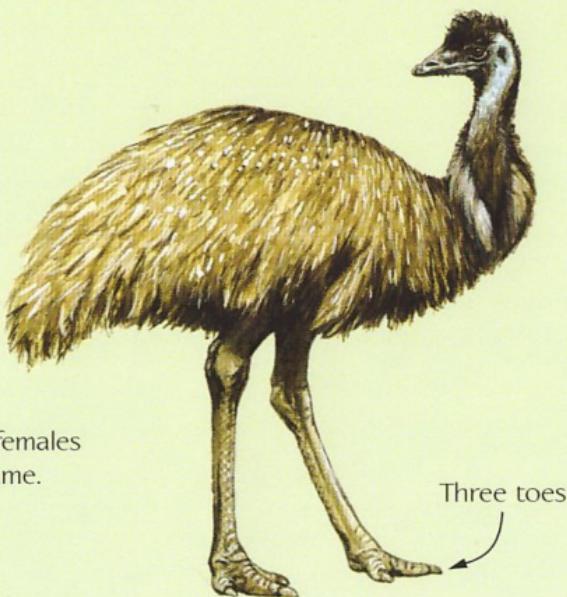
Africa

## Survival

Lower risk

Ostriches are the biggest living birds. They can't fly, but they're the fastest thing on two legs, and can outrun a horse. Ostrich eggs are about 15cm (6in) long. The mother keeps them warm by day; the father at night. Once the chicks hatch, the father looks after them.

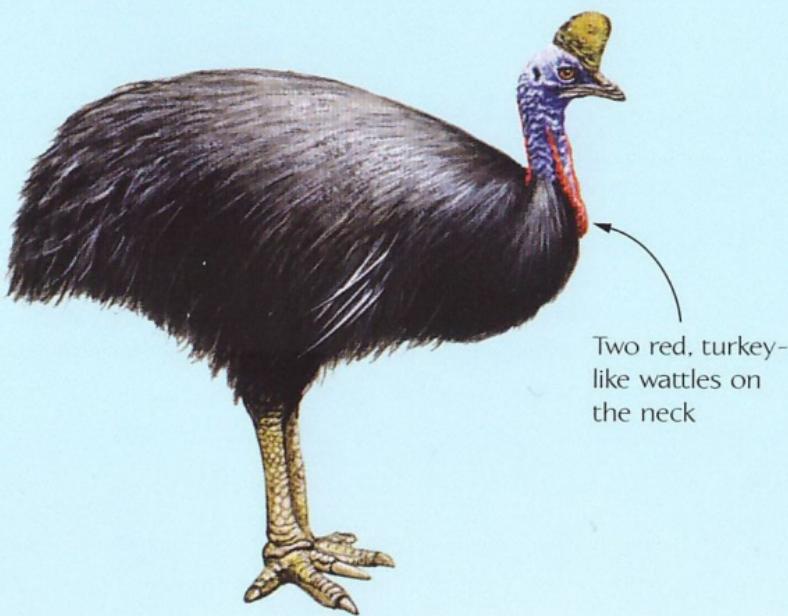
# Emu



Males and females  
look the same.

Scientific name	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
Family	Casuariidae (cassowaries and emus)
Total height	1.8m (6ft)
Diet	Plants, seeds, insects
Where found	Australia
Survival	Lower risk

The tallest birds in Australia, these flightless relatives of ostriches have soft, brown hair-like feathers. The father keeps the eggs warm and raises the chicks with no help from the mother. The chicks have brown and cream stripes, for camouflage. Emus make loud, booming calls that can be heard 2km (1½ miles) away.

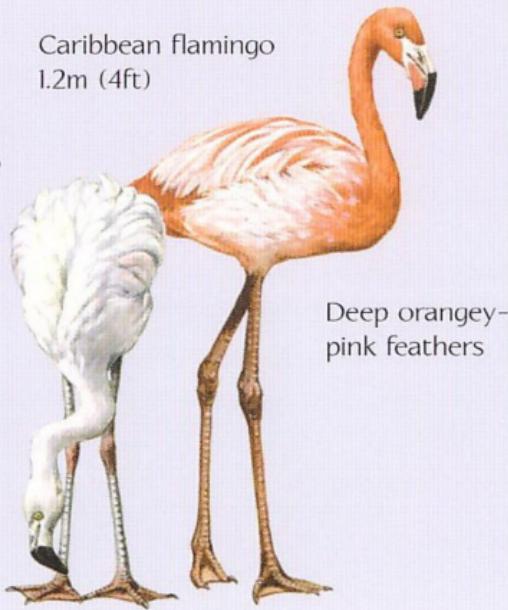


Two red, turkey-like wattles on the neck

Scientific name	<i>Casuarius casuarius</i>
Family	Casuariidae (cassowaries and emus)
Total height	1.75m (5¾ft)
Diet	Fruit, fungi, snails, frogs, insects
Where found	Australia, New Guinea
Survival	Vulnerable

Living in lush rainforests, cassowaries are probably the most dangerous birds in the world. On each foot, they have a big, sharp claw which they can use to slash open an animal's stomach – or a person's. Their necks and heads are blue, with tall, bony crests, which they use to barge through the undergrowth.

Chilean flamingo  
1m (3½ft)



Caribbean flamingo  
1.2m (4ft)

**Scientific names** *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* (Carib.)  
*Phoenicopterus chilensis* (Chilean)

**Family** Phoenicopteridae (flamingos)

**Diet** Crustaceans, algae, insects

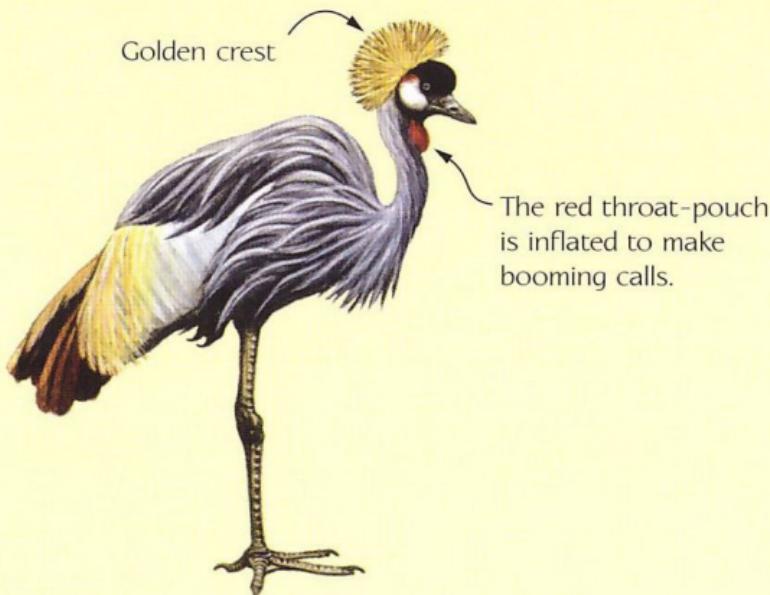
**Where found** Caribbean: Caribbean coasts  
Chilean: South America

**Survival** Lower risk

Flamingos live in big groups, and feed with their heads upside down, straining tiny creatures and algae out of the water with their beaks. Eating crustaceans and algae turns them pink. In zoos, flamingos are fed with a food colouring to achieve the same effect.

# Grey crowned crane

84



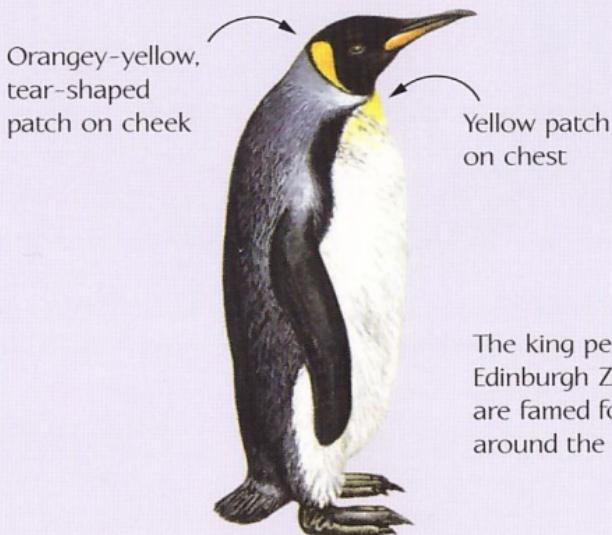
Scientific name	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Family	Gruidae (cranes)
Total length	1.1m (3½ft)
Diet	Grass, seeds, insects, small mammals
Where found	Eastern-central to southern Africa
Survival	Lower risk

Crowned cranes are eye-catching birds that nest near water. Unlike most cranes, they have a grasping back toe that lets them perch in trees. In spring, they carry out elaborate courtship dances that involve flapping their wings and leaping into the air with loud cries. A grey crowned crane appears on the flag of Uganda, and is the country's national bird.



Scientific name	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>
Family	Threskiornithidae (ibises and spoonbills)
Total length	58cm (23in)
Diet	Crustaceans, insects, frogs, snails
Where found	Northern South America
Survival	Lower risk

These brilliantly coloured wading birds live in large groups in swampy areas and shallow bays. They use their long, curved beaks to pluck small creatures out of the mud, washing them before they eat them. Scarlet ibis chicks are a greyish-brown colour.



The king penguins at Edinburgh Zoo, in Scotland, are famed for taking a walk around the zoo every day.

Scientific name	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>
Family	Spheniscidae (penguins)
Total length	90cm (35½in)
Diet	Fish
Where found	Antarctic islands
Survival	Lower risk

The second largest penguins (emperor penguins are bigger), these amazing birds live on islands around the Southern Ocean. Like all penguins, they cannot fly but are superb swimmers, zooming around under water with their flipper-like wings. King penguins often dive over 200m (656ft) down. Males and females take turns to sit on their eggs.

# Jackass penguin

87



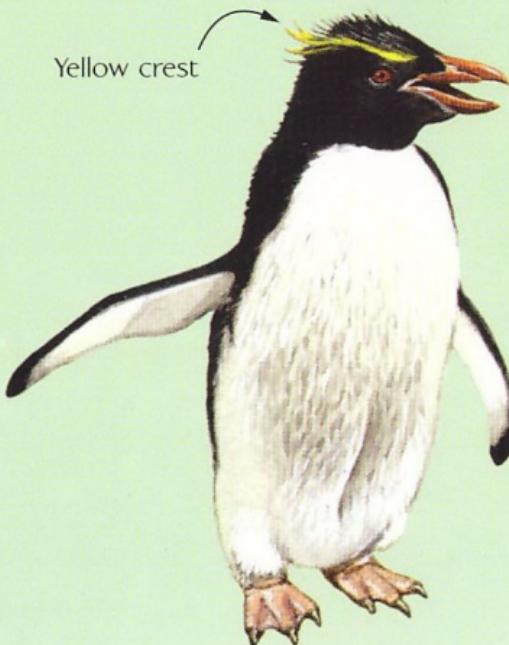
Black spots  
and upside-  
down U-shape  
on chest

Scientific name	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Family	Spheniscidae (penguins)
Total length	68cm (27in)
Diet	Fish, squid
Where found	Southern African coast and islands
Survival	Vulnerable

These penguins are named because of the donkey-like, braying sound they make. Like all penguins, they nest together in large groups called rookeries. They dig the nests out of guano (piled-up, dried bird poo). Jackass penguins don't have a breeding season, but long-term mates nest throughout the year.

# Rockhopper penguin

88



Scientific name	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>
Family	Spheniscidae (penguins)
Total length	56cm (22in)
Diet	Krill (small crustaceans), fish, squid
Where found	Islands in southernmost parts of Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans
Survival	Vulnerable

These small penguins are named because of the way they move, hopping between rocks. They breed in huge rookeries in November: some groups have over 100,000 nests. The male and female take turns to warm the eggs, for ten days at a time, while the other finds food.

# Griffon vulture

89

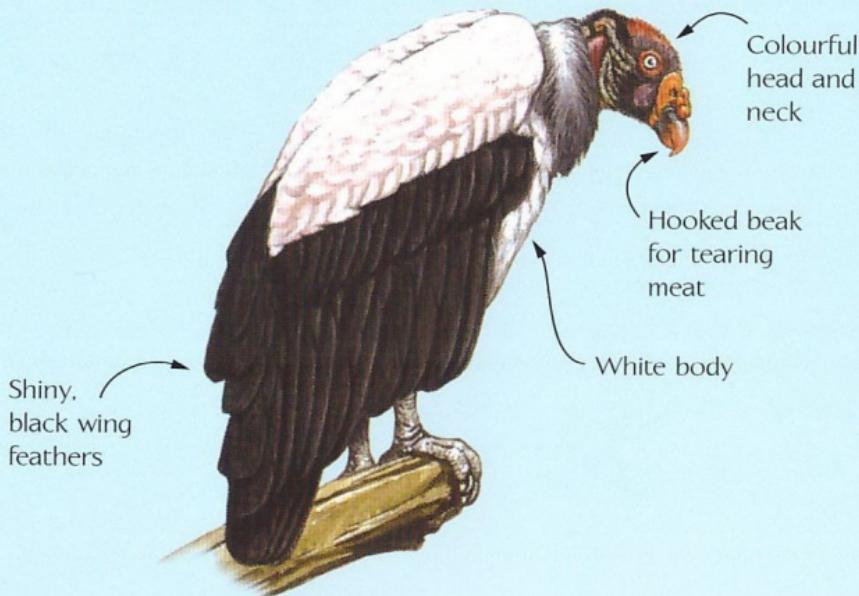


Scientific name	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Family	Accipitridae (hawks, eagles and relatives)
Total length	1.1m (3½ft) maximum
Diet	Carrion
Where found	Europe, Africa, southwest Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Vultures feed on carrion – dead and decaying meat. They have bald heads, as feathers would get matted with blood during feeding. Like many birds of prey, griffon vultures cannot smell, but have excellent eyesight, and look out for likely meals by soaring for hours over open land. Unlike most vultures, they can be quite noisy, hissing and grunting together.

# King vulture

90



Scientific name	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
Family	Cathartidae (New World vultures)
Total length	80cm (31½in)
Diet	Carrion
Where found	Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

Surprisingly, New World vultures are more closely related to storks than to Old World vultures such as griffon vultures (89). Most vultures are black, but the bodies of king vultures are mainly white. In the breeding season, the male and female circle one another, whistling and flapping their wings.

# Andean condor

91



White patches on underside of wings

The male has a "comb" on its head and flaps of skin called wattles on its neck.

Scientific name	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>
Family	Cathartidae (New World vultures)
Total length	♂ 1.3m (4½ft) maximum
Diet	Carrion
Where found	South America
Survival	Lower risk

Andean condors have the largest wingspan of any bird of prey, sometimes reaching over 3m (9¾ft). These huge wings allow them to soar effortlessly, high above the Andes Mountains, as they look for food. Andean condors lay just one egg, and the chick stays in the nest for six months before it is ready to fly.

# Eurasian eagle owl

92

Large ear-tufts  
and golden eyes



Scientific name	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Family	Strigidae (true owls)
Total length	71cm (28in) maximum
Diet	Rodents, rabbits, birds, amphibians
Where found	Europe, Asia, North Africa
Survival	Lower risk

The largest owls, with a wingspan of up to 2m (6½ft), eagle owls live in open forests and rocky places. They hunt from dusk to dawn, flying silently between the trees. The feathery tufts on eagle owls' heads are not ears, but help the birds to recognize one another.



Scarlet macaw  
85cm (33½in)

Blue-and-yellow  
macaw  
86cm (34in)

**Scientific names** *Ara ararauna* (blue-and-yellow)  
*Ara macao* (scarlet)

**Family** Psittacidae (true parrots)

**Diet** Fruit, nuts, seeds

**Where found** Central and South America

**Survival** Lower risk

These large parrots grip hard fruit and nuts with their claws and open them with strong, curved beaks. They scream, squawk and croak very loudly. This is to make themselves heard in the thick rainforests they call home. Their bright colours blend in surprisingly well with the fruits, leaves, and blue shadows of the rainforest.



**Scientific names** *Ramphastos sulfuratus* (keel-billed)  
*Ramphastos toco* (toco)

**Family** Ramphastidae (toucans)

**Diet** Fruit

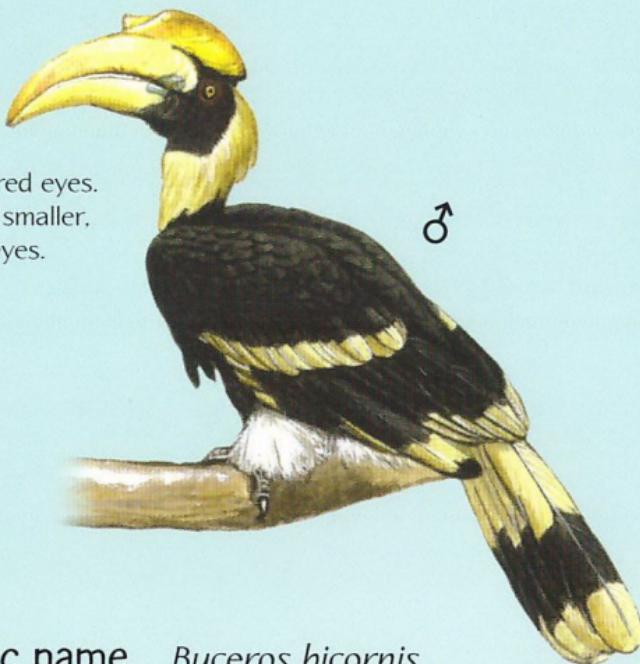
**Where found** South America

**Survival** Lower risk

Toucans have long, lightweight beaks with saw-like edges. These let them grip slippery fruit, and reach branches too thin to bear their weight. Tocos are the largest toucans: their beaks may be up to 21.5cm (8½in) long. They tend to live among trees in open grassland. Keel-billed toucans live high up in rainforest trees.

# Great Indian hornbill

95



Males have red eyes.  
Females are smaller,  
with white eyes.

Scientific name	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
Family	Bucerotidae (hornbills)
Total length	♂ 1.2m (4ft)
Diet	Fruit, insects, small animals
Where found	South and Southeast Asia
Survival	Lower risk

Hornbills are named after the bony structure, called a casque, on top of their long, downward-curving beaks. Great Indian hornbills are the largest type. At nesting time, the female walls herself into a tree-hole with dung, leaving just a slit through which the male feeds her. Hornbill wings make a lot of noise when they flap.

# Laughing kookaburra

96



Males have blue wing patches, and often blue feathers at the base of their tails. Females have a brown tail and grey wing patches.

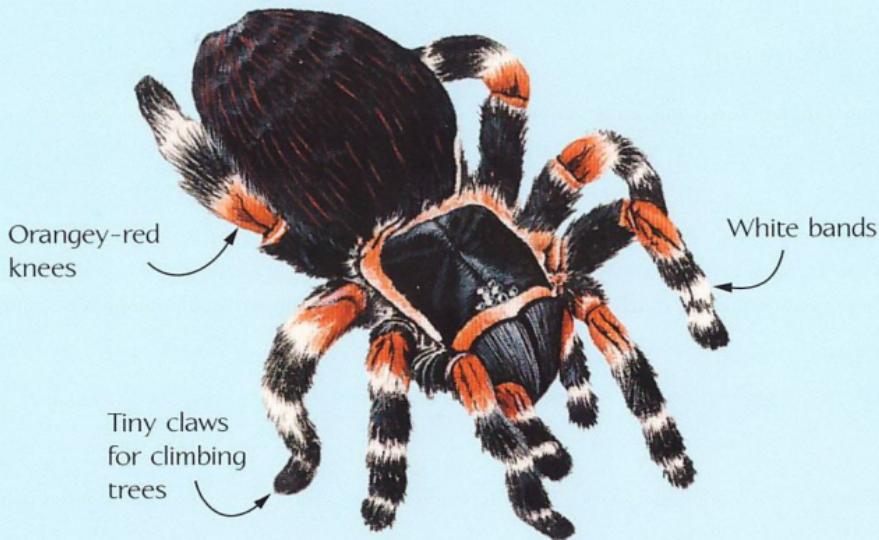
Black eye-stripe

Scientific name	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Family	Halcyonidae (kingfishers)
Total length	45cm (17½in)
Diet	Reptiles, insects, worms, fish, birds, small mammals
Where found	Australia
Survival	Lower risk

The biggest of kingfishers, laughing kookaburras are named for their cackling call. In the wild, they do most of their hunting on the ground, and kill their prey by banging it against a branch. Kookaburras living around parks may be quite tame, and accept food from people.

# Red-kneed tarantula

97



Scientific name	<i>Brachypelma smithi</i>
Family	Theraphosidae (tarantulas)
Average width	13cm (5in)
Diet	Insects, spiders, small birds and mammals, reptiles, amphibians
Where found	Mexico
Survival	Lower risk

Tarantulas are big, hairy spiders, found in the warmer parts of the world. Red-kneed tarantulas live in burrows dug in the soft earth of rocky hillsides, or under trees. They emerge at night to hunt, ambushing their prey, then killing it with poisonous fangs.

# Leafcutter ant

98



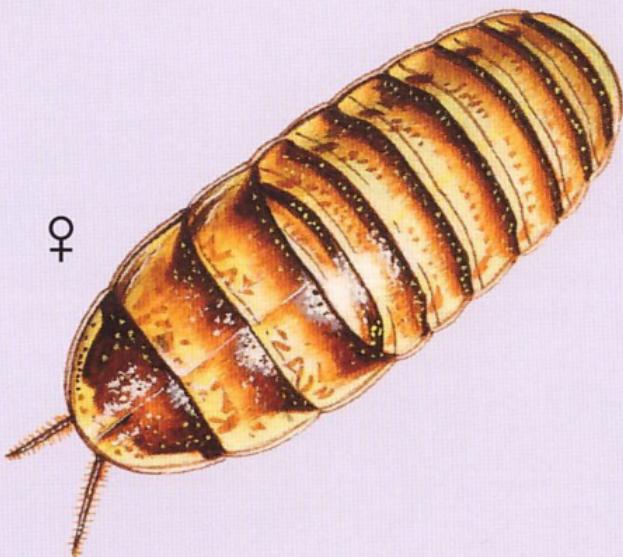
Leafcutter ants are different shapes and sizes depending on their job in the ant colony. This worker ant is small, with a spiny back that helps it to carry leaves.

Scientific name	<i>Atta cephalotes</i>
Family	Formicidae (ants)
Lengths	Worker 0.13–0.75cm ( $\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$ in) Soldier 1.25cm ( $\frac{1}{2}$ in) Wingless queen 2cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ in) Winged male 2.5cm (1in)
Diet	Fungus, leaf sap
Where found	Mexico, Central and South America
Survival	Lower risk

These long-legged ants cut leaves with their sharp jaws, which vibrate like electric saws. The leaves are taken to their nest, where they are chewed up. A fungus grows on the leaf pulp, which the ants feed to their young. The adults live on sap from the leaves.

# Madagascar hissing cockroach

99



Scientific name	<i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>
Family	Blaberidae (giant cockroaches)
Average length	6.25cm (2½in)
Diet	Fungus, rotting fruit
Where found	Madagascar
Survival	Lower risk

Hissing cockroaches take their name from the sound they make as they blow air through breathing holes in their sides. Unlike other cockroaches, these insects are wingless. They live in the leaves on the rainforest floor. Male hissing cockroaches have two bumps on their heads which they use to butt other males.

# Giant African land snail

100



<b>Scientific names</b>	<i>Achatina achatina</i> (Ghana) <i>Achatina fulica</i> (East African)
<b>Family</b>	Achatinidae (giant African land snails)
<b>Shell lengths</b>	17cm (6½in) – Giant Ghana snail 12cm (4¾in) – East African giant snail
<b>Diet</b>	Plants, fruit, dead animals
<b>Where found</b>	Africa
<b>Survival</b>	Lower risk

Growing as long as a man's hand, these are the world's largest snails. The biggest type, from Ghana, is also called a tiger snail because of its stripy shell. Giant East African snails are more often seen in zoos. The markings on their shells are less bold. A snail is both male and female. After a pair mates, both snails lay eggs.